United Nations A/55/PV.81

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session

Official Records

81st plenary meeting
Monday, 4 December 2000, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Holkeri .... (Finland)

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Reports of the Third Committee

The President: The General Assembly will consider the reports of the Third Committee on agenda items 103 to 114 and 12.

I request the Rapporteur of the Third Committee, Ms. Anzhela Korneliouk of Belarus, to introduce in one intervention the reports of the Third Committee.

Ms. Korneliouk (Belarus): I have the honour to present for consideration the following reports of the Third Committee on the agenda items allocated to it by the General Assembly.

Under agenda item 103, entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family", the Third Committee recommends in document A/55/591, paragraph 9, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 104, entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons", the Third Committee recommends in document A/55/592, paragraph 9, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 105, entitled "Crime prevention and criminal justice", the Committee recommends in document A/55/593, paragraph 20, the adoption of six draft resolutions.

I would like to draw the attention of the Assembly to paragraph 14 of the report, which falls under the discussion of draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.8/Rev.1, entitled "Combating the criminal misuse of information technologies". In that paragraph, the names of Norway and Venezuela should be added to the list of sponsors.

In addition, I would also like to draw the attention of the Assembly to a correction in draft resolution V, on page 15 of A/55/593, last preambular paragraph, beginning "*Noting* the work". The title of the Committee should read "Committee of Experts on Crime in" — not "and" — "Cyberspace of the Council of Europe". In the same paragraph, after "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland", "in May 1998" should read "on 17 May 1998".

Under agenda item 106, entitled "International drug control", the Third Committee recommends in document A/55/594, paragraph 7, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 107, entitled "Advancement of women", the Third Committee recommends in document A/55/595 and corrigenda 1 and 2, paragraph 35, the adoption of six draft resolutions and, in paragraph 36, the adoption of one draft decision.

I would like to draw the attention of the Assembly to part III of the report. In draft resolution I, entitled "Working towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour", the following corrections should be made to the text to

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

bring it into line with the text of A/C.3/55/L.11/Rev.1, as it was before the Third Committee at the time of its adoption.

In the third preambular paragraph, the phrase "a common feature of which is premeditation," should be deleted, and the phrase "and that the failure to do so constitutes a human rights violation" should be added to the end of the same paragraph.

The following paragraph should be inserted after the fourth preambular paragraph:

> "*Noting* general recommendation 19 concerning violence against women adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women".

In the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "awareness campaigns through print and electronic media, as well as educational programmes, are required to underline" should be deleted and replaced by "fundamental changes in societal attitudes are required, and underlining".

In operative paragraph 1, the word "crimes" before "that are identified in the outcome document" should be deleted and replaced by the word "those". The phrase "a common feature of which is premeditation", which appears after "including crimes against women committed in the name of honour", should be deleted.

In operative paragraph 7, after the phrase "elimination of the crimes in question", the phrase "and on the issue of crimes of passion" should be deleted.

Under agenda item 108, entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'", the Third Committee recommends in document A/55/596, paragraph 10, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 109, entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", the Committee recommends in document A/55/597*, paragraph 25, the adoption of six draft resolutions and, in paragraph 26, the adoption of one draft decision. I would like to draw the attention of the Assembly to paragraph 21 of the report, which falls under the discussion of draft decision A/C.3/55/L.70, entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa". In that paragraph, the name of Japan should be added to the list of sponsors.

Under agenda item 110, entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", the Third Committee recommends in document A/55/598, paragraph 14, the adoption of two draft resolutions and, in paragraph 15, the adoption of one draft decision. I would like to draw the attention of the Assembly to paragraph 8 of the report, which falls under the discussion of draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.18/Rev.2, entitled "The rights of the child". In that paragraph, the name of Morocco should be added to the list of sponsors.

Under agenda item 111, entitled "Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People", the Committee recommends in document A/55/599, paragraph 8, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 112, entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination", the Committee recommends in document A/55/600, paragraph 26, the adoption of four draft resolutions and, in paragraph 27, the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 113, entitled "The right of peoples to self-determination", the Committee recommends in document A/55/601, paragraph 17, the adoption of three draft resolutions.

Under agenda item 114, entitled "Human rights questions", the Committee recommends, in paragraph 4 of document A/55/602, the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 114 (a), entitled "Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments", the Committee recommends, in paragraph 16 of document A/55/602/Add.1, the adoption of three draft resolutions.

Under agenda item 114 (b), entitled "Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms", the Committee recommends, in paragraph 94 of its report contained in documents

A/55/602/Add.2 and A/55/602/Add.2/Corr.1, the adoption of 21 draft resolutions.

I would like to draw the attention of the Assembly to revisions in draft resolution V, entitled "Situation of human rights in Cambodia". The word "Mr." should be inserted before the name Thomas Hammarberg in paragraph 4 and before the name Peter Leuprecht in paragraph 5. In paragraph 8, the initial letters of the words "Governance Action Plan" should be capitalized. In paragraph 17, a comma should appear after the second appearance of the words "Khmer Rouge". In paragraph 27, the words "to take all steps" should be inserted before the words "to prevent such violence", and the final words of the paragraph should read "through seeking technical assistance". Finally, in paragraph 29, the word "requests" before the words "the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" should be replaced by the word "asks".

Under agenda item 114 (c), entitled "Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives", the Committee recommends, in paragraph 49 of document A/55/602/Add.3, the adoption of eight draft resolutions. In connection with that report, I would like to draw the attention of the Assembly to a correction to draft resolution VI, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo". In the sixth preambular paragraph, the word "all" before the word "parties" should be deleted.

Under agenda item 114 (d), entitled "Human rights questions: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action", the Committee indicates in its report contained in document A/55/602/Add.4 that no draft proposals were submitted and no action taken under that sub-item.

Under agenda item 114 (e), entitled "Human rights questions: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights", the Committee indicates in its report contained in document A/55/602/Add.5 that no draft proposals were submitted and no action taken under that sub-item.

Under agenda item 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council", the Committee recommends, in paragraph 8 of document A/55/603, the adoption of two draft decisions.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the members of the Group of Eastern European States for having given me the honour of representing them as a member of the Bureau of the Third Committee. I should like also to thank the Chairperson of the Committee and her deputies, the Secretariat staff and the interpreters for their efforts to ensure the success of our work.

The President: I should like to inform members that the representative of the Dominican Republic has expressed the desire to make a statement in connection with the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 107, "Advancement of women", contained in documents A/55/595 and corrigenda 1 and 2. May I take it that the General Assembly, bearing in mind rule 66 of the rules of procedure, agrees to discuss that report?

It was so decided.

The President: I shall call on the representative of the Dominican Republic when we come to agenda item 107.

Other statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote or position.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Third Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations too that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Third Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Third Committee, unless the Secretariat is notified otherwise in advance. That means that, where a recorded vote or separate vote was taken, we will do the same. I would also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Third Committee.

Agenda item 103

Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/591)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 9 of its report. The draft resolution, entitled "International Year of Volunteers", was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly likewise wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/57).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 103?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 104

Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/592)

The President: The General Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 9 of its report. The draft resolution, entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing", was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/58).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 104?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 105 *(continued)*

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/593)

The President: The Assembly has before it six draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 20 of its report.

The Assembly will take a decision on the six draft resolutions one by one. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their vote or position.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 55/59).

The President: The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II, entitled "Follow-up to the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 55/60).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "An effective international legal instrument against corruption".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 55/61).

The President: The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV, entitled "United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 55/62).

The President: The Third Committee adopted draft resolution V, entitled "Combating the criminal misuse of information technologies", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 55/63).

The President: The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VI, entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 55/64).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 105.

Agenda item 106

International drug control

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/594)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/65).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 106?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 107

Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/595 and Corr.1 and 2)

The President: The Assembly has before it six draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 35 of its report and in corrigenda 1 and 2, as well as on a draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 36 of its report.

In this connection, I would like to inform members that action on draft resolution VI will be postponed to a later date to allow time for the review of the programme budget implications by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. The Assembly will take action on the draft resolution as soon as possible, before the recess in December.

In accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly at the beginning of this meeting, I now give the floor to the representative of the Dominican Republic.

Ms. Álvarez (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of the Dominican Republic profoundly regrets that it has been necessary to postpone the adoption of draft resolution VI in document A/55/595, on the critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), to a later stage of the fifty-fifth session. My delegation has joined the consensus regarding the report in document A/55/595, on the advancement of women, only because you, Mr. President, have assured us that the draft text on INSTRAW, together with the recommendations of the Fifth Committee on the financial implications, will be presented at a later date before the General Assembly recesses in December.

It is our delegation's understanding that, on the basis of paragraph 6 of the draft resolution on INSTRAW, the Institute will be provided with resources so that it can continue its activities throughout 2001. It is also our understanding, on the basis of resolution 54/250, that these resources could come from the contingency fund, which, at the end of the fifty-fourth session, had $16,362,700.

Finally, it is to be regretted that the Third Committee presented its report to the General Assembly in plenary meeting without taking into account the provisions of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The delegation of the Dominican Republic hopes that an omission of this kind will not be repeated in the future.

The President: I now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. Carp (United States of America): We will join the consensus for adopting draft resolution V, but we would like to state for the record that there is only one criterion for judging whether or not a reservation to a treaty is acceptable. That criterion, in our opinion, is that the reservation must be compatible with both the object and the purpose of the treaty. There is no other international treaty law that has a bearing on reservations.

Mr. Al-Mohannadi (Qatar) *(spoke in Arabic)*: My delegation would like to offer its views on the draft resolution on crimes of passion against women. In Qatar, as in other Islamic countries, we try to protect women's rights, and we have always recognized full equality between men and women.

My country believes that all crimes against men or women are equally reprehensible, and my delegation rejects these constant attacks against Islam, a religion that has more than 1.25 billion adherents. These crimes are not confined to any particular people or region. We believe that crimes called "crimes of honour" are crimes against people. Hence, we have reservations on the draft resolution entitled "Working towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour", and we shall abstain in the voting.

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on draft resolutions I through V and the draft decision, one by one. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their vote or position.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Working towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Lesotho

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, China, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates

Draft resolution I was adopted by 146 votes to 1, with 26 abstentions (resolution 55/66).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Lesotho informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of Mauritania had intended to abstain.]

The President: The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II, entitled "Traffic in women and girls", without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 55/67).

The President: The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III, entitled "Elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 55/68).

The President: The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV, entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 55/69).

The President: The Third Committee adopted draft resolution V, entitled "Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women", without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 55/70).

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision, entitled "Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women", recommended by the Third Committee for adoption. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: I call on the representative of France on a point of order.

Ms. De Carne (France) *(spoke in French)*: There are corrections needed for the French version of draft resolution III. I note that the English version is correct, so perhaps it is just the French version where corrections need to be made.

The President: May I take it that the General Assembly decides to take note of the corrections to the French version of the resolution?

It was so decided.

The President: I call on the representative of Jordan, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote on one of the resolutions just adopted.

Mr. Naber (Jordan): My delegation abstained in the voting on resolution 55/66, as, early on in the discussions, my delegation believed it was crucial that we include the term "premeditated" before the word "crimes" in the third preambular paragraph and in operative paragraph 1 of the resolution. Without the inclusion of the term "premeditated" in these paragraphs, the scope can include crimes committed in sudden bursts of rage in reaction to particular circumstances. Or, to put this another way, it would include implicitly not only those crimes that fall within the broad understanding of this resolution, but also those that overlap with crimes of passion.

My delegation fervently believes that there should not have been any half measures here. If passion is intended, then passion should be mentioned, and the scope of the resolution be broadened explicitly. If passion is not intended, there should have been no difficulty for the membership to accept "premeditation" in the text, since it is a common feature of the crime anyway. This would have added precision where precision is needed. Without this, the result is, of course, utterly illogical.

In the third preambular paragraph States are reminded that they have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, punish, and so forth. How could States possibly exercise due diligence to prevent such crimes if the crime in question is committed in a sudden state of rage? All States in which there are crimes of passion would in due course leave themselves open to potential accusations of human rights violations for not having exercised enough due diligence to prevent the commission of such crimes.

I wish to emphasize my delegation's willingness to work in the future towards bridging the gaps on this issue. We look forward to expressing our views regarding the upcoming Secretary-General's report.

Mrs. Ahmed (Sudan) *(spoke in Arabic)*: I asked for the floor not to explain the vote that my country cast, but only to note that my country was one of the sponsors of draft resolution IV, "Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system", and this fact was not reflected in the report. We trust that the Secretariat will indicate that my country co-sponsored draft resolution IV.

The President: The Assembly takes note of the announcement by the representative of the Sudan regarding its inclusion as one of the sponsors of draft resolution IV.

The Assembly is reminded that we are acting on draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Third Committee, and Member States cannot become additional sponsors in the plenary. Any corrections delegations may have concerning the lists of sponsors of draft resolutions contained in the reports of the Third Committee should be submitted to the Secretariat of the Committee for issuance of corrigenda. However, the floor will be given to any delegations that wish to make corrections to the text of any draft resolution contained in reports of the Third Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly has now concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 107?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 108

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/596)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution, entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly", without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/71).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 108?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 109

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/597)

The President: The Assembly has before it six draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 25 of its report, and one draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 26 of its report.

I now give the floor to the representative of Norway, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. Leiro (Norway): I refer to the draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees". To date, such draft resolutions have always been adopted by consensus. The main purpose of the draft resolution is to express the support of all Member countries for the work of the High Commissioner. At a time when the tasks entrusted to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are more challenging than ever, and refugees all over the world depend on the assistance provided by UNHCR, the best way to express solidarity with the plight of refugees and the work of UNHCR would be to adopt the draft resolution on this subject by consensus again this year.

A vote on a specific paragraph at this time is particularly regrettable, bearing in mind that this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of UNHCR. Furthermore, it should be recalled that the paragraph on which a vote has been requested contains agreed language from resolution 54/146, which was adopted by consensus at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly. Based on these considerations, Norway supports the draft resolution, will vote in favour of the paragraph and hopes other Member countries will express their support for UNHCR by doing the same. We hope the current situation will be an exception and that it will not lead to any precedents with regard to resolutions on this important subject.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the six draft resolutions and one draft decision, one by one. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their votes or positions.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 55/72).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "New international humanitarian order".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 55/73).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

A separate, recorded vote has been requested on operative paragraph 20 of draft resolution III.

Unless I hear any objection, I shall now put to the vote operative paragraph 20 of draft resolution III.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam

Operative paragraph 20 of draft resolution III was retained by 139 votes to none, with 31 abstentions.

The President: The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III as a whole without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III as whole was adopted (resolution 55/74).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Ad hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the announcement of voluntary contributions to the

Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 55/75).

The President: Draft resolution V is entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and World Refugee Day".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 55/76).

The President: Draft resolution VI is entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 55/77).

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 26 of its report.

The draft decision is entitled "Documents relating to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Dominican Republic, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote after the voting.

Ms. Álvarez (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of the Dominican Republic abstained in the voting on operative paragraph 20 of draft resolution III, entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", contained in the Third Committee's report.

We would like to state explicitly that operative paragraph 10 of the resolution, which condemns the refoulement of persons seeking asylum, should not be understood to mean that the Dominican Republic renounces its sovereign right to apply its migration policy within the terms of international and human rights laws.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 109?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 110

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/598)

The President: I give the floor to the representative of the United States, who wishes to speak in explanation of position before action is taken.

Mr. Carp (United States of America): The Government of the United States will join the consensus on draft resolution II, entitled "The rights of the child", because we want to reaffirm our commitment to protecting those who are most vulnerable, our children. Overall, we believe that this draft resolution contributes to that process. We note with regret, however, that we disagree with the sponsors on certain paragraphs; most notably with paragraph 8 of section V. We are deeply disappointed that we were unable to arrive at a compromise on the language in that paragraph.

In January this year, the United States, along with many Member States, had the honour to participate at Geneva in the Working Group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. The result was a major step in the protection of children, of which we can all be very proud.

The language in paragraph 8 of section V of the draft resolution does not take into account the fact that the questions of the age of military recruitment and participation in armed conflict were resolved in Convention No. 182 of the International Labour Organization and in the Optional Protocol. We strongly believe that any language in United Nations resolutions referring to the above-mentioned issue should accurately reflect not only the most recent but, arguably, the most significant progress in the development of legal instruments to protect children.

While the language in paragraph 8 does not alter in any way the legal obligations of these two singular treaties, we maintain that, in the interest of accuracy, any language that refers to these issues should be in line with the language that so many of us negotiated over such a long period of time. That said, our efforts now are best directed towards ensuring compliance by States parties and at persuading non-parties to improve their practices and consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol. In that way, we will truly be working towards our common goal of protecting the world's children.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 14 of its report, and on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 15 of the same report.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "The girl child".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 55/78).

The President: The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II, entitled "The rights of the child", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 55/79).

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child".

May I consider that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 110?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 111

Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/599)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution, entitled "International Decade of the World's Indigenous People", without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/80).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 111?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 112

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/600)

The President: I give the floor to the representative of the United States, who wishes to speak in explanation of position before action is taken.

Mr. Carp (United States of America): We truly appreciate the hard work and the real spirit of compromise shown by everyone in order to reach the degree of consensus we have attained with these texts on the elimination of racial discrimination. Such a cooperative spirit bodes well for the upcoming World Conference against Racism. The United States knows the tragedy of racism first-hand. We are committed to combating it in all its manifestations, both at home and abroad. We look forward to the World Conference, and we are working hard to make it a success.

However, unfortunately, there are some elements in these draft resolutions that trouble us and keep us from becoming co-sponsors. Specifically, we are concerned about references that are inconsistent with the First Amendment rights set out in our Constitution, concerning freedom of speech. Thus, while we may denounce certain opinions, the right to express them is guaranteed by our Constitution. The United States took a limited reservation to that effect under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Secondly, we do not believe the General Assembly has the power to direct States to ratify treaties or conventions. We would prefer urging States to consider ratification or accession.

Furthermore, while we support the use of all appropriate measures to combat racism, "all available measures" are mentioned in the draft resolution. In our view, that is an overly broad formulation that could be subject to misinterpretation.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the four draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 26 of its report and the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 27 of the same report.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 55/81).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Measures to be taken against political platforms and activities based on doctrines of superiority which are based on racial discrimination or ethnic exclusiveness and xenophobia, including, in particular, neo-Nazism".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 55/82).

The President: The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III, entitled "Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 55/83).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 55/84).

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision entitled "Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination". May I take it that the General Assembly decides to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 112.

Agenda item 113

The right of peoples to self-determination

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/601)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 17 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 55/85).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei

Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution II was adopted by 119 votes to 19, with 35 abstentions (resolution 55/86).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Tajikistan informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Canada, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, Tonga

Draft resolution III was adopted by 170 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions (resolution 55/87).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 113?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 114

Human rights questions

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/602)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 4 of its report. The draft decision is entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of human rights".

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 114.

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/602/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 16 of its report.

I turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 55/88).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 55/89).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 55/90).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 114?

It was so decided.

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/602/Add.2 and Corr.1)

The President: The Assembly has before it 21 draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 94 of its report.

I call on the representative of Qatar to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. Al-Mohannadi (Qatar) *(spoke in Arabic)*: My delegation asked for the floor to explain our vote before the vote on draft resolution VI, on promoting and consolidating democracy. The State of Qatar, under the leadership of His Highness the Emir, Sheikh bin Hamad Al-Thani, took a great stride forward to build a democratic State enjoying individual and juridical freedom, and this has been expressed clearly in the freedom of expression and freedom of information and the press. Women have been given wide opportunities in all walks of life, and the State of Qatar is truly committed to democracy, to human rights and to support for human rights.

We are not against this draft resolution, yet we are concerned about some paragraphs contained in it. Therefore we will abstain in the vote.

The President: The representative of Cuba has asked to speak on a point of order.

Mrs. de Armas Garcia (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is not actually a point of order. I would like to seek clarification concerning draft resolution X. When this draft resolution was considered in the Committee, we had clarified that Ghana mistakenly was included in the list. We had corrected that. We do not know why, but this error has been repeated. So in the records, could that please be corrected? Ghana is not a sponsor of draft resolution X concerning the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification.

The President: The Assembly takes note of the statement of the representative of Cuba.

I give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Ms. Ito (Japan): My statement is concerning the corrections announced by the Rapporteur of the Third Committee for draft resolution V, entitled "Situation of human rights in Cambodia". The last correction announced, for paragraph 29, was not quite what was intended in the draft resolution in the Third Committee. The word "asks" will replace "requests" in front of the words "the Government of Cambodia", which appear in the third line of the English version, and not the "requests" in front of "the office of the United Nations High Commissioner".

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the 21 draft resolutions, one by one. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their vote.

We turn first to draft resolution I, "Human rights and cultural diversity". The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 55/91).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Protection of migrants".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

India, Israel, Malaysia, Micronesia (Federated States of), Myanmar, Palau, Singapore, United States of America

Draft resolution II was adopted by 165 votes to none, with 8 abstentions (resolution 55/92).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Lesotho informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Proclamation of 18 December as International Migrants Day". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 55/93).

The President: We now turn to draft resolution IV, entitled "United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 55/94).

The President: The Third Committee adopted draft resolution V, entitled "Situation of human rights in Cambodia", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 55/95).

The President: Draft resolution VI is entitled "Promoting and consolidating democracy".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Bahrain, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Swaziland, Viet Nam

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 157 votes to none, with 16 abstentions (resolution 55/96).

[Subsequently the delegation of Honduras informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: Draft resolution VII is entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 55/97).

The President: Draft resolution VIII is entitled "Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VIII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VIII was adopted (resolution 55/98).

The President: Draft resolution IX is entitled "Strengthening of the rule of law". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IX without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IX was adopted (resolution 55/99).

The President: Draft resolution X is entitled "Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution X was adopted by 106 votes to 1, with 67 abstentions (resolution A/55/100).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Colombia and Tajikistan advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: Draft resolution XI is entitled "Respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms and in solving international problems of a humanitarian character".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Guatemala, Nauru, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Uruguay

Draft resolution XI was adopted by 104 votes to 52, with 15 abstentions (resolution 55/101).

The President: Draft resolution XII is entitled "Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Micronesia (Federated States of), Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution XII was adopted by 112 votes to 46, with 15 abstentions (resolution A/55/102).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Tajikistan informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour, and the delegations of Chile and Cuba, that they had intended to abstain.]

The President: Draft resolution XIII is entitled "Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XIII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XIII was adopted (resolution 55/103).

The President: Draft resolution XIV is entitled "Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XIV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XIV was adopted (resolution 55/104).

The President: Draft resolution XV is entitled "Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XV was adopted (resolution 55/105).

The President: Draft resolution XVI is entitled "Human rights and extreme poverty". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XVI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XVI was adopted (resolution 55/106).

The President: Draft resolution XVII is entitled "Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Morocco, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal

Draft resolution XVII was adopted by 109 votes to 52, with 7 abstentions (resolution 55/107).

The President: Draft resolution XVIII is entitled "The right to development". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XVIII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XVIII was adopted (resolution 55/108).

The President: Draft resolution XIX is entitled "Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XIX without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XIX was adopted (resolution 55/109).

The President: Draft resolution XX is entitled "Human rights and unilateral coercive measures."

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Azerbaijan, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution XX was adopted by 117 votes to 49, with 6 abstentions (resolution 55/110).

[Subsequently the delegations of Kuwait and Tajikistan informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: Draft resolution XXI is entitled "Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XXI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XXI was adopted without a vote (resolution 55/111).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Kuwait informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote after the vote.

Mr. Francis (Jamaica): My delegation voted in favour of draft resolution II, on the protection of migrants, and supports its general thrust. However, we wish to express some concern over operative paragraph 4, which has several implications for national immigration policy and by extension, for social and economic development. Jamaica supports the welfare and protection of migrants. However, economic circumstances often do not allow for the accommodation of an influx of migrant workers. The revision and review of immigration policy is a matter within the domestic jurisdiction of each State. National immigration policy is also conditioned by the availability of resources and the economic and social conditions which prevail.

Mr. Tapia (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation wishes to explain its vote on draft resolution I, on human rights and cultural diversity, in document A/55/602/Add.2.

The Chilean delegation has joined in the consensus on the adoption of the draft resolution on human rights and cultural diversity. Nevertheless, it has serious reservations about the relevance of including the theme of cultural diversity in the context of human rights. My country firmly respects the coexistence of various cultural systems in the international arena; it could not be otherwise regarding a country like Chile, where cultures of such diverse origins coexist. Nevertheless, we feel that the question of cultural diversity pertains to other areas of United Nations efforts, not to human rights.

The great legacy of the twentieth century is the recognition and validation of the principle of the universality of human rights. For Chile, the universality of human rights means incorporating the inherent dignity of all inhabitants of the planet, independent of their culture, religion, social status, ethnic origin, gender or traditions. Neither lack of development nor cultural differences can be invoked to justify limits on human rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the rest of the conventions which comprise the universal system for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Opening a debate on the question of human rights and cultural diversity could mean, in our delegation's view, a step backward in the universality and implementation of these rights.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 114?

It was so decided.

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the Third Committee
(A/55/602/Add.3)

The President: The Assembly has before it eight draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 49 of its report.

I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote before the vote.

Mr. Al-Ethary (Yemen) *(spoke in Arabic)*: Democracy has now become a characteristic feature of modern Yemen. This has led us to take a strong and clear position on several political issues regarding strengthening of human rights at the national and international levels.

We would like to confirm our full respect for international instruments, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and international humanitarian law in general. We believe that human rights are an indivisible whole and should not be selective. Hence we condemn any violations of human rights wherever they occur, without any exception. Any politicization of human rights issues means using them as a tool against individual countries and for purposes unrelated to noble human rights issues. We reject selectivity and double standards and do not believe in targeting any individual religions or other related issues.

Accordingly, my delegation will not vote on all the draft resolutions on human rights in all countries, without exception, as set out in document A/55/602/Add.3.

Mr. Donigi (Papua New Guinea): I was going to speak after the vote, but since you have given me the floor before the vote, I would like to explain that Papua

New Guinea has traditionally abstained on all the draft resolutions contained in document A/55/602/Add.3.

The Government of Papua New Guinea considers that the rule of law is fundamental to the protection and promotion of human rights. In this regard, democratic institutions cannot flourish where political expediency may appear to legitimize arbitrary administrative actions contrary to the principle of the rule of law. In other words, Papua New Guinea considers arbitrary administrative actions as inimical to democratic values, norms and institutions and threatens the very basis and fundamentals of the rule of law. Papua New Guinea will accordingly vote in favour of these draft resolutions.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the eight draft resolutions, one by one. After all decisions have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their vote.

We turn first to draft resolution I entitled "Situation of human rights in Myanmar". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 55/112).

The President: Draft resolution II entitled "Situation of human rights in parts of South-eastern Europe". The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 55/113).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu, Yugoslavia

Against:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guinea, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Singapore, South Africa, Swaziland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay

Draft resolution III was adopted by 67 votes to 54, with 46 abstentions (resolution 55/114).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Human rights situation in Iraq".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu

Against:

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Sudan

Abstaining:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 102 votes to 3, with 60 abstentions (resolution 55/115).

The President: Draft resolution V is entitled "Situation of human rights in the Sudan".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, China, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam

Abstaining:

Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Palau, Philippines, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

Draft resolution V was adopted by 85 votes to 32, with 49 abstentions (resolution 55/116).

The President: Draft resolution VI is entitled "Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yugoslavia

Against:

Rwanda, Uganda

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 102 votes to 2, with 63 abstentions (resolution 55/117).

The President: Draft resolution VII is entitled "Situation of human rights in Haiti". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 55/118).

The President: Draft resolution VIII is entitled "Question of human rights in Afghanistan". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VIII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VIII was adopted (resolution 55/119).

The President: I call on the representative of Bolivia, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote after the voting.

Mr. Salamanca (Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Bolivia voted in favour of draft resolution III, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran". My delegation is aware of positive elements that indicate greater progress in the efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement human rights in that country. But the Government of Bolivia notes with concern that since 1996, no invitation has yet been extended by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the

Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights to visit the country. Such a visit would make it possible to obtain more official information on the situation on human rights in Iran, which of course is the subject of the draft resolution and of the recommendations it contains.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 114.

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/602/Add.4)

The President: May I take it that the Assembly takes note of the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 114 (d)?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 114?

It was so decided.

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/602/Add.5)

The President: May I take it that the Assembly takes note of the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 114 (e)?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (e) of agenda item 114?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 12 (*continued*)

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Third Committee (A/55/603)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the two draft decisions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

We turn first to draft decision I, entitled "Organization of work of the Third Committee and biennial programme of work of the Committee for 2001-2002". May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision I?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The President: We turn now to draft decision II, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision II?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of all the chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council allocated to the Third Committee?

It was so decided.

Programme of work

The President: I would like to inform members of the following additions to the programme of work of the General Assembly.

On Wednesday morning, 6 December 2000, the General Assembly will take up the second report of the Credentials Committee, followed by agenda item 47, "Assistance in mine action", to consider a revised draft resolution contained in document A/55/L.51/Rev.2 and Corr.1. The General Assembly will also take up the reports of the Fifth Committee under sub-items (a) to (e) and (g) of agenda item 17, "Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments".

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

United Nations A/55/PV.82

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session

Official Records

82nd plenary meeting
Wednesday, 6 December 2000, 11 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Holkeri .... (Finland)

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

Agenda item 17 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/55/652)

The President: The Fifth Committee recommends in paragraph 11 of its report, document A/55/652, that the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2001: Mr. Andrzej Abraszewski, Mr. Manlan Narcisse Ahounou, Mr. Felipe Mabilingan, Mr. Besley Maycock and Mr. C. S. M. Mselle.

May I take it that the Assembly appoints these persons?

It was so decided.

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/55/424/Add.1)

The President: In paragraph 5 of its report, document A/55/424/Add.1, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2001: Mr. Petru Dumitriu, Mr. Chinmaya Gharekhan, Mr. Ihor Hummeny, Mr. Gebhard Benjamin Kandanga, Mr. David Leis and Mr. Kazuo Watanabe.

In paragraph 6 of the same report, the Fifth Committee also recommends that the General Assembly appoint Mr. Henry Fox as a member of the Committee on Contributions for a term of office beginning on 6 December 2000 and ending on 31 December 2001.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint these persons?

It was so decided.

(c) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/55/653)

The President: In paragraph 5 of its report, document A/55/653, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint the Court of Audit

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This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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of France as a member of the Board of Auditors for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 July 2001.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to appoint the Court of Audit of France?

It was so decided.

(d) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/55/654)

The President: The Fifth Committee recommends in paragraph 5 of its report, document A/55/654, that the General Assembly confirm the appointment by the Secretary-General of the following persons as members of the Investments Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2001: Mr. Ahmad Abdullatif, Mr. Fernando Chico Pardo and Mr. J. Y. Pillay.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to confirm the appointment of these persons?

It was so decided.

(e) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/55/655)

The President: In paragraph 5 of its report, document A/55/655, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2001: Mr. Omer Yousif Bireedo, Mr. Spyridon Flogaitis and Ms. Brigitte Stern.

May I consider that the Assembly appoints these persons?

It was so decided.

(g) Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/55/656)

The President: In paragraph 7 of its report, document A/55/656, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the International Civil Service Commission for a four-year term of office beginning 1 January 2001: Mr. Ernest Rusita, Mr. El Hassane Zahid, Mr. Asda Jayanama, Mr. C. M. Shafi Sami and Mr. Alexei Fedotov.

May I take it that the General Assembly appoints these persons?

It was so decided.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 17.

Agenda item 47 (*continued*)

Assistance in mine action

Draft resolution (A/55/L.44/Rev.2 and Corr.1)

The President: Members will recall that the General Assembly held the debate on this item at its 73rd plenary meeting, on 28 November 2000. In this connection, the General Assembly has before it a revised draft resolution issued as document A/55/L.44/Rev.2 and Corr.1.

I now give the floor to the representative of France to introduce draft resolution A/55/L.44/Rev.2.

Mr. Le Bret (France) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the European Union and all of the sponsors, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/55/L.44/Rev.2 and Corr.1, "Assistance in mine action".

I shall not go back over the substance of the text, which was covered during the earlier debate in plenary meeting. I simply want to say that the document now before us in A/55/L.44/Rev.2 and Corr.1 is the result of informal consultations that allowed for agreement on the revised text among the sponsors and all interested delegations.

In this connection, I would like to thank all those delegations that participated in the negotiations for their support and for the goodwill demonstrated throughout the sometimes difficult process. The authors of the draft resolution trust that it can be adopted this year by consensus, like others before it.

The President: I should like to inform members that the sponsor of the amendments contained in document A/55/L.51 has withdrawn the amendments.

We shall now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/55/L.44/Rev.2 and Corr.1.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/55/L.44/Rev.2 and Corr.1?

Draft resolution A/55/L.44/Rev.2 and Corr.1 was adopted (resolution 55/120).

The President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to make statements in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Amer (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation joined the consensus on this draft resolution, but we would like to place on record that we do not accept all its elements. In particular, I would like to refer to the first operative paragraph, which welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations in assistance in mine action. Although we concur with the information contained in the report, we note that it concentrates on mines that were planted recently and does not deal with mines planted earlier, from which my country suffers. During the Second World War millions of mines were planted on Libyan territory. These mines continue to kill many people, destroy the property of many people and hamper our efforts in the field of combating desertification and expansion of agrarian reform.

Nor does the report deal with the responsibility of countries that have planted mines on the territories of other countries for paying the necessary reparations or for the removal of such mines. At previous sessions of the General Assembly, we drew attention to the problems we were experiencing due to this situation. We would again like to draw the attention of the Secretary-General to this matter.

We had expressed hope that the United Nations would pay the necessary attention to mines planted in the past. Unfortunately, the report presented at this session does not differ from the previous reports; it concentrates only on mines that were planted recently. Therefore, we would like once more to express our concern regarding this trend. We hope that the Secretary-General will avoid such a trend in the future, that he will draw international attention to the problems posed by mines planted in the past and that he will attach as much importance to this problem as to mines that were planted recently. The mines that were planted in the past, just like those planted recently, cause many tragedies. It has become incumbent on the international community to solidify its efforts in confronting such problems.

Mr. Khairat (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): The delegation of Egypt has asked for the floor to explain its position with regard to the resolution on assistance in mine action, which has just been adopted.

At the outset, I wish to point out that this is an extremely important subject for Egypt, as it is one of the countries most heavily affected by landmines. In fact, there are about 23 million mines and pieces of unexploded ordnance on Egyptian territory. This hampers the efforts of the Egyptian Government to develop the areas in which those explosives are found. From a practical standpoint, Egypt attaches great importance to efforts to remove landmines and to the way in which the United Nations is dealing with this issue.

Additionally, landmines continue to be a legitimate means of defending a country's borders, especially countries with extensive borders. This fact has prompted Egypt and many other countries to refrain from joining the Ottawa Convention, as the Convention did not take into account the security and defence concerns of such countries.

In the light of these considerations, the delegation of Egypt put forth a number of amendments, which are contained in document A/55/L.51. It did so in an attempt to emphasize the concerns I have referred to in connection with the problem of landmines, as well as to make it possible for the General Assembly to deal with this subject in a comprehensive and integrated manner that takes into account the concerns of all countries. It was in order to support the humanitarian objectives of the resolution and to maintain consensus that the delegation of Egypt withdrew its amendments to the resolution just adopted.

Those amendments included proposed changes to the sixth and eleventh preambular paragraphs, which concern the legitimacy of the responsible use of anti-personnel landmines to defend a country's borders. In that regard, we would like to reaffirm that landmines continue to be an important element for the security and defence of Egypt's extensive borders and for protecting itself from incursions, terrorism and smuggling. We had hoped those concerns would have been included in the text of the resolution.

Mr. Benítez Versón (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): As it has done in the case of similar draft resolutions in previous years, the delegation of Cuba joined the consensus on the draft resolution contained in document A/55/L.44/Rev.2. As is well known, since the early years of their consideration, resolutions on this question have focused on demining issues. However, their content has gradually been increased to include a much broader and more ambiguous concept referred to as "assistance in mine action". This has made the annual negotiations held prior to the adoption of these resolutions increasingly complex and intensive. What happened this year confirms this. Several weeks of intensive consultations were required to arrive at a draft resolution acceptable to all parties. The text of the resolution we have just adopted reflects overall a very delicate balance that does not allow for selective readings or qualifications of selected parts of the resolution that do not take into account its contents as a whole.

Our delegation would have preferred that the resolution explicitly reflect the legitimate national security concerns associated with anti-personnel mines. Mines continue to be an indispensable weapon for the legitimate defence of many States, in particular for developing countries that do not have the necessary resources to equip themselves with alternative means of defence.

Despite the shortcomings of the resolution, Cuba has supported it primarily because of its interest in contributing to every genuine effort made to eliminate the terrible effects that the indiscriminate and irresponsible use of anti-personnel landmines are having on the civilian populations of many countries.

I would like to conclude by conveying our appreciation to the sponsors of the resolution and to all the delegations that took part in the consultations for their spirit of compromise and the flexibility they demonstrated. That spirit made it possible to conclude successfully the consideration of this question today.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 47?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 3 (*continued*)

Credentials of representatives to the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly

Second report of the Credentials Committee (A/55/537/Add.1)

The President: The draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee in paragraph 10 of its report reads as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Having considered* the second report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendations contained therein,
>
> "*Approves* the second report of the Credentials Committee."

We shall now take action on the recommendation of the Credentials Committee set forth in paragraph 10 of its second report.

The Credentials Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/16 B).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 3.

Announcement

The President: Members will recall that the General Assembly, by its resolution 55/13 of 3 November 2000, decided to convene a special session on HIV/AIDS from 25 to 27 June 2001. The resolution also invited me, in my capacity as President of the General Assembly, to appoint, in consultation with Member States, two facilitators to assist in carrying out the preparatory process to ensure effective participation of all countries. In this regard, I have conducted intensive consultations, both through the Chairmen of regional groups and with a significant number of individual delegations representing all regions.

It is my great pleasure to announce my decision to appoint Ambassador Penny Wensley, Permanent Representative of Australia, and Ambassador Ibra Deguène Ka, Permanent Representative of Senegal, as the two facilitators of the preparatory process of the special session on HIV/AIDS. Both are highly praised for their excellence as mediators and consensus builders. Both are also persons with exceptional skills to seek and find solutions to different and sensitive issues.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

United Nations

A/55/PV.82/Corr.1

General Assembly

Fifty-fifth session

Official Records

English and French only

82nd plenary meeting

Wednesday, 6 December 2000, 11 a.m.
New York

Corrigendum

Page 1, second column, last line, and page 2, second sentence

for Court of Audit of France *read* First President of the Court of Accounts of France

United Nations A/55/PV.83

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session

Official Records

83rd plenary meeting
Friday, 8 December 2000, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Holkeri .... (Finland)

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 18

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Observance of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The President: The General Assembly, in accordance with decision 55/410, adopted at its 61st plenary meeting on 14 November 2000, will observe this morning, under agenda item 18, the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The General Assembly is today observing the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. This Declaration, together with the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, has laid the foundation for the role and responsibility of the United Nations in upholding the principle of the right to self-determination.

In December 1960, the representative of Cambodia, in introducing the draft resolution containing the Declaration, pointed out that the sponsors of the draft were anxious that the Declaration should be yet another step forward in the process of the emancipation of peoples. He also stressed the need for all countries concerned to support the Declaration in order to ensure peaceful development and freedom for all those peoples who had not yet gained independence.

The General Assembly, composed at the time of 99 Member States, adopted the Declaration by an overwhelming majority. Within a year, the Assembly had established a Committee to monitor the implementation of the Declaration, and in 1962 it issued a preliminary list of some 64 Non-Self-Governing Territories to which the Declaration applied.

The Declaration proclaimed the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations. The Assembly declared that all peoples have the right to self-determination and that, by virtue of that right, they may freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. Year after year, the Assembly has reaffirmed the principles enshrined in the Charter and has reiterated that the administering Powers have a special responsibility to promote to the utmost, within the system of international peace and security, the well-being of the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their responsibility.

The membership of the United Nations has more than doubled since the adoption of the Declaration. A total of 189 Member States, many of them former Non-Self-Governing Territories, are now called on to observe the anniversary of this historic document and acknowledge the urgency of realizing its goal: the

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

eradication of colonialism. At the Millennium Summit three months ago, Member States reiterated the right to self-determination of peoples.

Today there are still 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories to which the Declaration applies and to which the Assembly will continue to give its full attention. One of these — East Timor — has exercised its right to self-determination and chosen the path to independence. Just over a year ago the people of East Timor, in a free and fair referendum, voted for independence. Since then, the process towards national reconciliation and nation-building has been carried out with the support of the United Nations. The Territory is currently under the administration of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), and it is making strides in preparing the necessary conditions for independence. The international community has followed closely these historic developments in East Timor and the important role played by the United Nations.

I am therefore very pleased to be able to announce that, at the invitation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello of UNTAET, I will be visiting East Timor early next year. The purpose of my visit is to familiarize myself with the situation in East Timor and with the work of UNTAET firsthand. In the light of the Millennium Summit and the current discussions on the reform of peacekeeping, the visit should also be particularly interesting, given the complex and multidimensional nature of the UNTAET peacekeeping operation.

To conclude, I should like to stress that the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration, at the dawn of the millennium, offers us an opportunity not only to look back at the successes the United Nations has achieved in the field of decolonization, but also, more importantly, to look ahead and reiterate our commitment to fulfil its objectives and redouble our efforts to that end.

I now give the floor to the Under-Secretary-General of the Department for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, Mr. Yongjian Jin, who will deliver a message from the Secretary-General.

Mr. Jin (Under-Secretary-General, Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services): The Secretary-General is away and has requested that I deliver the following message on his behalf. The Secretary-General's message on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples reads as follows:

> "The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly 40 years ago, represented a universal reaffirmation of a historic process of emancipation, freedom and self-rule. The Declaration was not only an expression of support by the overwhelming majority of United Nations Member States for the liberation struggle of colonial territories, but also became a forceful tool with which to spur on the implementation of the Charter's provisions on Non-Self-Governing Territories.
>
> "The United Nations success in the area of decolonization can be most vividly observed in this very Assembly. More than 60 nations represented in this Hall have achieved independence and joined the United Nations as sovereign States in the four decades since the Declaration was adopted. While there is good cause for celebration, there is also a need for awareness of the challenges ahead, as the United Nations faces the task of completing the implementation of the Declaration and all the relevant resolutions of the Organization on decolonization.
>
> "During the past decade, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples has played an important role in maintaining a spotlight on the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, not least in providing a forum for their peoples to voice their thoughts and aspirations regarding their future.
>
> "The principles enunciated in the Declaration resonate with force at the dawn of the new Millennium. In spite of all that has been accomplished, the Declaration is yet to be implemented in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. I take this opportunity to reiterate an appeal to the administering Powers concerned to cooperate in this endeavour by assisting the Special Committee in the discharge

of the important mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly".

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Peter Dickson Donigi of Papua New Guinea, Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Mr. Donigi (Papua New Guinea), Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: The General Assembly is today observing the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. That historic Declaration embodied the international community's conviction that the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should enjoy the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and that the continued existence of colonialism was in contradiction to the United Nations ideals.

The General Assembly has continued, throughout the intervening period, to urge Member States to comply with its Declaration and has continued to guide the work of the United Nations on decolonization. Through the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the General Assembly has kept the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under constant review and has adopted concrete proposals to bring about the speedy elimination of colonialism.

Today we observe the anniversary of the Declaration at the same time as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism is coming to an end. It is regrettable that four decades later, and despite the successes the United Nations has seen in its efforts to promote the decolonization process, colonialism persists. Without wishing to minimize the challenges ahead, however, the Special Committee remains convinced that, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, progress towards implementing the Declaration can be achieved. Thus, efforts for a sustained, purposeful dialogue should continue and intensify.

The overwhelming support for the decolonization process continues unabated. Many countries, mine included, which came to independence under the watchful eye of the United Nations, are in this General Assembly today, commemorating the adoption of the Declaration that gave renewed impetus to the cause of decolonization.

The message of the Special Committee to the international community and to the Non-Self-Governing Territories on this special occasion is very clear: we will continue to work to carry out the mandate entrusted to us by the General Assembly, which has been reaffirmed and strengthened by successive decisions and resolutions of the Assembly, until the objectives of the Declaration have been attained.

Mr. Bakoniarivo (Madagascar) *(spoke in French)*: On behalf of the Group of African States, which Madagascar is chairing for the month of December 2000, it is my honour to speak today on the subject of agenda item 18, entitled "Observance of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples". That Declaration, adopted by the United Nations under resolution 1514 (XV) on 14 December 1960, has marked the history of international relations and reflects the commitment of the international community to the purposes and principles of the Charter, including the right of peoples to self-determination.

This anniversary is of particular importance to Africa, which shall the continents has paid the heaviest price as a result of colonization. Indeed, when the United Nations was established in San Francisco in 1945, only four African States were in a position to join this international Organization as independent countries. The rest of the African continent was still under colonial domination.

Furthermore, when the United Nations was created in 1945, two thirds of the present Member States were not yet independent. At present, 17 territories are still not autonomous and are demanding their freedom and their right to self-determination. This bears witness to the fact that undeniable efforts for decolonization have been made, but much remains to be done.

In this respect, we wish to express our gratitude to the United Nations, particularly to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of

Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples — for the efforts made to implement resolution 1514 (XV) in all the territories to which the Declaration applies, with a view to bringing a speedy and unconditional end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, in application of Article 73 of the United Nations Charter and the Declaration; for organizing regional seminars, which made it possible to assess the achievements of the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991; and for planning the strategy and the future activities of the United Nations regarding decolonization.

We also wish to pay warm tribute to the courageous freedom fighters who write the whole of the history of their struggle in letters of blood, at the cost of their lives.

Forty years have elapsed since the adoption of the Declaration whose anniversary we are observing today; but, unfortunately, we have to note that many problems of the last century will probably still exist in the new century. Decolonization is one of many.

While enormous progress has been made in eliminating colonialism during the last decade, much still remains to be done to ensure the total eradication of this scourge. The exercise of the inalienable rights of peoples of non-autonomous territories, particularly as regards small island developing States and their vulnerable social sectors, requires the continuation and consolidation of our efforts so that the United Nations can complete its decolonization work.

The main challenge we must face during the upcoming 2001-2110 decade, and in this commemoration is to complete the efforts that were made during the past decade to ensure that in the new century the world will be free from the yoke of colonialism.

According to the Millennium Declaration recently adopted by all the world's leaders in resolution 55/2,

> "We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence ... [and] the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation". (*para. 4*)

We hope that during the new decade the Member States will redouble their efforts in the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration and of other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on this subject.

May this event give new energy to our common struggle for universal and effective respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without regard to race, sex, language or religion. We also hope that this commemorative meeting will strengthen our commitment to the values and ideals of the United Nations to bring out a world of peace, equity and justice.

Mr. Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia): I feel greatly honoured to address this body in my capacity as Chairman of the Asian Group for the month of December 2000, on an occasion of particular significance to us: the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

We are privileged to deliberate on the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration at the beginning of the new millennium, when our Organization is assessing its past actions in all spheres of its work, including that of decolonization, concerning which the General Assembly has solemnly reaffirmed its strong commitment to the right of peoples to self-determination. In the past four decades since the adoption by the General Assembly of this important document, decolonization has greatly accelerated around the world. The presence in the General Assembly of so many formerly colonized nations is the brightest testimony to this.

By launching in 1990 an International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the United Nations reinforced its efforts to achieve the objectives of the Declaration. Enormous efforts have been made in this regard by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration over the past decades. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Special Committee and to its Chairman, Ambassador Peter Donigi of Papua New

Guinea, for their outstanding commitment and for their untiring efforts to fulfil the mandate.

Despite the impressive progress made since the adoption of the Declaration and the establishment of the Special Committee, the process of decolonization is not entirely complete. We cannot ignore the fact that 17 cases of Non-Self-Governing Territories are still under review by the Special Committee. The United Nations and the international community at large are duty-bound to bring colonialism to a complete end. Progress in decolonization is closely connected with the protection and implementation of the right of the peoples of the Territories mentioned above to self-determination. This requires the joint efforts of the United Nations, the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers.

The majority of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are small islands that confront unique problems arising from their small size and population, their limited natural resources and their vulnerability to natural disasters. It is therefore essential that the international community be sensitive to their needs and responsive to their requests for assistance. In this respect, the role of the United Nations programmes and specialized agencies is of utmost importance for accelerating progress in their economic and social sectors.

Last July the Special Committee adopted a resolution proposing that the current session of the General Assembly declare the decade from 2001 to 2010 as the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. It is our earnest hope that the proclamation of the Second Decade will further accelerate the process of decolonization and bring it to a successful end. This is a goal and a constant challenge which must be pursued without pause for as long as there remain Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Mr. Kuchynski (Ukraine): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

In a few days, on 14 December, the peoples of the world will mark the fortieth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of a document of historic significance: the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. While observing that upcoming event today, it is important to emphasize the outstanding role that document has played in the history of mankind and the United Nations.

It was that Declaration that set forth the fundamental principle of self-determination, which remains one of the cornerstones of contemporary international relations. The Declaration set in motion the process of decolonization, which enabled many peoples in the former Non-Self-Governing Territories — despite their small size and population, geographic remoteness and limited natural resources — to exercise their choice to freely determine their political status and to freely pursue economic, social and cultural development.

A review of the efforts of the United Nations over the past four decades since the adoption of the Declaration offers grounds for believing that decolonization is one of the most significant achievements of this Organization. Indeed, the successes in pursuing this process are well known. Let me recall some of them. Dozens of former colonies, inhabited by more than 80 million people, have gained their long-awaited independence. All eleven Trust Territories have exercised their right to self-determination by obtaining independence or free association with an independent State. Due to its untiring efforts in the implementation of this document, the United Nations family of nations has been replenished with the essential number of new Members, and has become a unique global Organization of universal nature.

At the same time, however encouraging the outcome of the process launched by the Declaration, there is an obvious need to intensify our common efforts aimed at bringing it to its logical conclusion. One should not forget that the United Nations is still responsible for 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories which continue to strive to determine their future.

The Group of Eastern European States expresses its hope that today's decision by the General Assembly to proclaim the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism will contribute to the final elimination of colonialism in all of its forms and manifestations. It is also our belief that the Special Committee on Decolonization will continue its undaunted commitment to putting the last vestiges of the colonial era behind us.

Exactly three months ago, the heads of State and Government gathered at the Millennium Summit adopted the Millennium Declaration, in which they undertook to rededicate themselves to support all efforts to uphold the right to self-determination of peoples that have not yet attained a full measure of self-government. Thus, the lofty principles and goals enshrined in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples 40 years ago have once again found solid support.

In this respect, it is important that in the years to come all Members of the United Nations redouble their efforts towards reaching the ultimate goal of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in order to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism. Let us work together to that end.

Mr. Valdés (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation has the honour to address the Assembly, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, on the occasion of the commemoration of an event that is of special importance to the United Nations: the fortieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which was adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

For the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, this anniversary is doubly important and symbolic. Of the 33 States members of our group, 12 were included in the General Assembly's list of Non-Self-Governing Territories in 1960.

A process of integration has taken place in our region as in few other regions of the world. What at first was only Latin America was gradually enriched by the addition of the nations of the Caribbean that gained their independence and entered the United Nations as Member States. Today, we can testify to the fraternity and unity of our Group.

Our region has played a key role in the grand process of decolonization promoted by the United Nations, even prior to the acclaimed Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Indeed, in the negotiations on the Charter of San Francisco, the Latin American republics emerged as the voice of those who still had no voice, and, since 1945, they have been fighting for the exercise of the right to self-determination and for the decolonization of the fraternal peoples of the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

Regrettably, there are still 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories on the United Nations list, eight of them situated on the American continent. The Special Committee on Decolonization must continue its work until those Territories are decolonized.

In the majority of the Territories that remain on the list, their peoples should be able to exercise their right to self-determination and thus freely to choose independence, integration or free association with an independent State.

Also on the list are special cases such as the dispute over sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, located in our continent. This matter should be resolved through negotiations between the Government of the Republic of Argentina and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

Moreover, we should also like to point out that, this year for the first time, the Special Committee on Decolonization has finally adopted by consensus a resolution on Puerto Rico, which, among other things, reiterates that the Puerto Rican people constitutes a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own and unequivocal national identity.

We hope that in the years ahead, the Special Committee will make substantive progress in its review of the situation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It should be remembered that, in 1998, the Special Committee decided to embark on a critical review of its work. This review was completed on 20 March 2000, when the Special Committee completed the elaboration of an informal programme of work that could be used as a model to be applied on a case-by-case basis to the respective Territories.

The Special Committee must necessarily be given the support of the administering Powers, duly taking into consideration the aspirations of the inhabitants of the Territories in order to elaborate the respective work programmes during the year 2001 in accordance with United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

Lastly, and for all the reasons set out above, the Latin American and Caribbean Group wishes to express its support for the proclamation of the period 2001-2010 as the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Ms. Suñé Pascuet (Andorra): The Western European and other States Group (WEOG) is pleased to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

The 1960s witnessed the emergence of a large number of States throughout the world. Thus, our vision of the planet was enriched as we began to take into consideration other voices and other visions. This benefited this house as well — the United Nations — which acquired the special texture of a mosaic of peoples, the characteristic that makes the Organization and, particularly, the General Assembly a unique entity in which all members are equally represented.

The WEOG expresses its commitment to all peoples that are emerging from colonialism. In both the economic and social aspects, we wish them to achieve full development.

(*spoke in French*)

At the dawn of the third millennium, the world is new. Nevertheless, we cannot ignore the weight of history. States are undoubtedly equal by law, but now we must work in a supportive, responsible and balanced way to eliminate the great inequities in economic and social development that persist.

The recent Millennium Summit highlighted the difficulties and challenges before us. The WEOG States, a regional group made up of countries with developed economies, will be able, I am certain, to meet the challenge of our times and fulfil the hopes of our planet.

(*spoke in English*)

During the past decade some positive developments related to decolonization have taken place, most recently in 1999, when the people of East Timor chose the path to independence. Still, progress has been limited, and it is our hope that more can be done in the coming years. We must seize the moment and find in the spirit of freedom that engulfed the world 40 years ago the inspiration and the hope to build a new world where nations are equal in rights, responsibilities and levels of development. We must go beyond political independence and towards equal and fair interdependence. This is a goal that is dear to the WEOG States.

The President: The observance of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is now concluded.

Agenda item 18

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on its work during 2000 (A/55/23 (Parts I-III))

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/55/72 and Corr.1, A/55/303, A/55/497)

Draft resolutions (A/55/L.58, A/55/23 (Part III), Chapter XIII, G-para. 7 and H-para. 8)

The President: I call on the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Mr. Fayssal Mekdad of the Syrian Arab Republic, to introduce the Committee's report.

Mr. Mekdad (Syria), Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: In my capacity as Rapporteur, I have the honour to present the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for consideration by the General Assembly. The report is contained in document A/55/23 (Parts I-III) and covers the work the Special Committee carried out during 2000.

The report is being submitted in accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 54/91, regarding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Special Committee was requested to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of

Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence.

The report of the Special Committee consists of three parts. All its recommendations for action by the General Assembly are presented in part III of the report.

Part I contains the general introductory chapters, which describe the organization of the Committee and its activities on all the matters entrusted to it, and its relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, non-governmental and regional organizations. It also reflects the Committee's action relating to international conventions. I draw the Assembly's attention, in particular, to section J of part I, which outlines the future programme of work that the Committee proposes to carry out during the year 2001, which, subject to a decision by the General Assembly, will be the first year of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Part I also includes, as an annex, the report of the Pacific regional seminar, held in Majuro, Marshall Islands, to review the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories. I commend this report for the Assembly's careful perusal, as it describes the seminar's frank and open discussions, the views of the participants and their recommendations. The Special Committee gave due consideration to these recommendations of the seminar in formulating its future plans.

Part II of the report provides a procedural account of the Committee's deliberations regarding the substantive issues on its agenda. These include the dissemination of information on decolonization; the question of sending visiting missions to the Territories; economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories; military activities carried out by the administering Powers in the Territories under their administration; and the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations. It also contains information from the Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and describes the action taken by the Committee regarding each of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Finally, as stated earlier, Part III of the report contains all the recommendations of the Special Committee to be placed before the Assembly some of which have been considered by the Fourth Committee. All the draft resolutions and decisions will be presented in proper order by the Rapporteur of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in his report to the General Assembly.

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples has formulated specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism.

During the period under review, it has examined the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization. It has continued to pay special attention to the situation in the small Territories and has recommended the most suitable measures that would enable the people of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination. It has taken steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments and regional, national, international and non-governmental organizations to achieve the objectives of the Declaration and to implement the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

Mr. Santos (Mozambique), Vice-President, took the Chair.

It has requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Throughout the period under review, the Special Committee has continued its efforts to engage the administering Powers in a dialogue and to seek their cooperation in the discharge of the mandate entrusted to it. The Special Committee seeks to work formally with all administrating Powers in a spirit of cooperation.

The proposals contained in the report of the Special Committee are based on a case-by-case examination of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under its mandate. These were formulated and adopted after due consideration of all aspects of the situation prevailing in those Territories, including the constitutional and political situation and socio-economic developments.

In the fulfilment of its tasks, the Special Committee has benefited from the substantive information provided in Secretariat working papers on each Non-Self-Governing Territory. These working papers are based on information provided by the administering Powers under Article 73 *e* of the Charter. As in the past, valuable information has also been received from representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories who participated in the meetings of the Special Committee and in its regional seminars. Media reports and information provided by regional non-governmental organizations and experts have also been useful sources. However, in the view of the Special Committee, the sending of visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories themselves remains the best way of obtaining first-hand knowledge of the realities in the Territories.

The Special Committee has not been able to send visiting missions for several years. However, in their absence, regional seminars have provided a useful alternative. These seminars are held in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, often in host countries situated in the vicinity of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and sharing the problems that small island territories experience. The seminars thus continue to serve as an opportunity for Committee members to have direct contact with some of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The seminars have also been crucial in bringing together representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, non-governmental organizations, experts and scholars to interact and to exchange views on the status and developments in the Territories. The participants share information on issues of common concern, present papers and make recommendations on various aspects of the process of decolonization. Furthermore, they have direct access to the members of the Special Committee in an informal environment, to discuss their views and concerns and to learn about the Special Committee's activities. I draw the Assembly's attention again to the report of the Pacific regional seminar annexed to the Committee's report.

The report of the Special Committee notes with satisfaction that in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, New Zealand, as the administering Power concerned, continued to participate actively in the work of the Special Committee. The delegation of France participated in the Committee's work during the consideration of the question of New Caledonia. Although the delegations of the United Kingdom and the United States did not formally take part in the work of the Committee, both administering Powers have expressed their desire to continue an informal dialogue with the Committee. Throughout the reporting period, Portugal participated in the meetings of the Special Committee during its consideration of the question of East Timor. The Committee acceded to the request of Spain to participate in the proceedings on the question of Gibraltar and to the requests of Argentina, Brazil — on behalf of the States members of the Southern Common Market plus Bolivia and Chile — Paraguay and Uruguay to participate in the consideration of the item on the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

With respect to the work of the Special Committee regarding the social and economic aspects of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Chairman or Acting Chairman continued to attend the meetings of the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies. In addition, pursuant to a proposal to hold a joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council, the Special Committee established a working group entrusted with the preparation of such a meeting.

This year, the Special Committee, pursuant to its decision of 6 July 1999 concerning Puerto Rico, considered a report on that issue and adopted a resolution (A/AC.109/2000/24). By the terms of its resolution, the Special Committee, among other things, reaffirmed the hope that the Government of the United States of America would expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in conformity with resolution 1514 (XV) and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on Puerto Rico. It also encouraged the Government of the United States to order the halt of its armed forces military drills and manoeuvres on Vieques island, to return the occupied land to the people of Puerto Rico, to halt the persecution, arrests and harassment of peaceful demonstrators and to respect the right to health and economic development; it also welcomed the release of Puerto Rican prisoners and expressed hope that the President of the United States would release all political prisoners serving sentences on cases related to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico.

The Special Committee discharged the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly during the year in a cooperative, transparent and pragmatic manner. It held both formal and informal meetings and consultations in order to reach consensus and formulate its recommendations. Its consultations included member States, non-members of the Special Committee, administering Powers and representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Altogether it held 15 formal meetings and 15 informal meetings and numerous informal consultations carried out by officers of the Special Committee.

Allow me very briefly to outline some of the actions and recommendations being put before the Assembly for its consideration. The Special Committee examined the issue of information regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted to the Secretary-General under Article 73 *e* of the United Nations Charter. It reiterated its recommendation to the General Assembly that in the absence of a decision by the Assembly itself stating that a Territory had attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* with respect to that Territory.

In its consideration of the question of economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Special Committee affirmed the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Territories. It reaffirmed the responsibility of the administering Powers to promote political, economic and social advancement in Territories under their administration. At the same time, the Special Committee also affirmed the need to avoid any economic and other activities that would adversely affect the interests of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Therefore, the Special Committee recommended, among other things, that the Assembly urge the administering Powers to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of peoples in Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources, and requested the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories.

The Special Committee has continued to pay special attention to the needs of the small island Territories. Their unique problems, arising from their small size and population, limited natural resources and vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental hazards, require the sustained cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system.

Reaffirming that the exercise of the right of self-determination by Non-Self-Governing Territories entails the extension, as a corollary, of all appropriate assistance to their inhabitants, the Special Committee paid particular attention to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. It welcomed the assistance provided so far but noted that only some specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing such assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories. It urged those agencies and organizations that had not yet provided assistance to do so as soon as possible. The Special Committee will continue to consult with the Economic and Social Council in its efforts to implement the Declaration.

In particular, the Special Committee requested the specialized agencies and other organizations to provide information on the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island Territories, including ways and means to assist them in fighting drug trafficking and other criminal activities. In this regard, the Special Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it request the relevant agencies, organizations and institutions of the United Nations system to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories.

In addition, the Special Committee also recommended that the General Assembly welcome the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of resolution 574 (XXVII). This resolution called for the provision of necessary mechanisms to permit its associate members, including the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in special sessions of the Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of the programmes of action of those United Nations conferences in which the Territories originally participated as observers, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council.

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by some specialized agencies and programmes and United Nations and regional institutions, the Special Committee recommended that these and other international organizations take measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life in the Territories. The Committee paid special attention to the problems related to the impact of the international financial regulations on the relevant sectors of the economy of the Territories and to seeking mutually acceptable ways of cooperation in this field.

In 2000, the Special Committee continued to examine the question of military activities in Non-Self-Governing Territories. It reaffirmed its strong conviction that the existence of military activities and installations in Non-Self-Governing Territories could constitute an obstacle to the exercise of self-determination. It urged administering Powers to take all necessary measures not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or acts of interference against other States. It reiterated that the Territories or adjacent areas should not be used for nuclear tests, dumping nuclear waste or deploying nuclear weapons. Furthermore, it deplored the continued alienation of land, particularly in the small island Territories of the Pacific and the Caribbean, for military installations. The Committee took note of the decision of some administering Powers to downsize their military presence in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Regarding the dissemination of information on decolonization, the Special Committee reiterated the importance of this activity and remained mindful of the role of public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination, including the role of non-governmental organizations. Consequently, it proposed that the General Assembly request the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to continue their efforts in this regard through all available media, including publications, radio and television, as well as through the Internet.

During last year, the Special Committee continued to monitor and examine the situation in each Territory under its mandate and to hold hearings at which it considered the views of representatives of the Territories, non-governmental organizations and other experts. As noted earlier, part III of the Special Committee's report contains its complete recommendations to the General Assembly regarding individual Territories. I refer members to the relevant section of the report, while highlighting here some selected recommendations.

With respect to New Caledonia, the Special Committee welcomed certain progress, including steps leading towards closer association of the Territory within the regional and international organizations and urged all parties involved to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony and in the framework of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords, moving towards an act of self-determination which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians.

The Special Committee also considered eleven small island Territories: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands. In general, it continued to reaffirm the responsibilities of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development of the Territories under their administration. The Special Committee took note of the conditions prevailing in the Territories and called upon the administering Powers to undertake specific measures with regard to each Territory. It also called upon the administering Powers to continue to take all measures to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money laundering and other criminal offences.

With regard to Tokelau, the Special Committee noted the firm commitment of the Territory to the development of self-government and to an act of self-determination. It commended Tokelau for its ongoing work in charting a distinctive, constitutional course which reflects its unique traditions and environment. It acknowledged the participation of the Tokelau representative in the Pacific regional seminar and the progress made by this Territory. It also acknowledged the effective and positive role of New Zealand as the administering Power and its commitment to meet its obligations to the United Nations.

Before concluding, I would like to emphasize that the Special Committee has continued to benefit greatly from the active participation of representatives of territorial Governments, regional inter-governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, as well as experts and representatives of some administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee. Their contributions have provided invaluable information and insights; their observations and many of their proposals have inevitably and properly been reflected in many of the recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Chairman of the Special Committee, Ambassador Peter Donigi, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea, for his vision and leadership, and to the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, Ambassador Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Permanent Representative of Cuba and Mr. Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué, of Côte d'Ivoire, with whom I have had the pleasure of working during the past year. I should also like to express gratitude to the staff of the Department of Political Affairs and of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, mainly to Mr. Mohammad Sattar and Ms. Maria Maldonado, whose assistance and support have enabled the Committee to carry out its work smoothly and successfully.

This year marks the end of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In this regard, the Special Committee has proposed to the General Assembly that it declare the decade 2001 to 2010 as the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The draft resolution in this connection is also contained in Part III of the Report of the Special Committee.

The Special Committee is determined to work closely with all administering Powers and the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to ascertain the aspirations of the people, on the basis of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Papua New Guinea to introduce draft resolution A/55/L.58.

Mr. Donigi (Papua New Guinea): I am pleased to address the General Assembly as it begins its consideration of the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

For the second year, I have had the distinct privilege of chairing the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. On this occasion, I wish to express gratitude for the confidence held in me to carry out such an important endeavour, which I consider an honour bestowed upon my country, a recognized advocate for decolonization.

The report of the Special Committee on its work during the current year, document A/55/23, has just been introduced by the Rapporteur. It has been an eventful year, during which the Special Committee carried out its responsibilities in compliance with the resolutions of the General Assembly, including the resolution that declared the Decade ending this year as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

The Special Committee has continued its efforts to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers. In order to assist such dialogue, during the year 2000 the Special Committee concluded preparation of a paper of an informal character containing a general work programme which would serve as a starting point for developing specific work programmes for each Territory. These specific work programmes would, in turn, be the bases of discussion with the administering Powers. Although progress in this area has been incipient, the Special Committee expects that the administering Powers will submit their replies and proposals regarding American Samoa and Pitcairn as soon as possible, including proposals on the modalities of the participation of representatives of the people in the Territories.

The International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, which comes to an end this year, has provided a political framework for concerted activities to speed up the decolonization process. In this connection, I should like to commend to the attention of the membership the overview of the activities taken during the Decade, which may be found in the thoughtful report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Decade.

Despite the efforts made to bring about the eradication of colonialism, the decolonization process is not over, nor can it be over as long as there are Non-Self-Governing Territories to which the Declaration applies. The persistence of colonialism has to be met with determined action to eliminate it. The Special Committee is thus recommending to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution declaring a second Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. By the terms of the draft resolution, the Assembly would call upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action prepared by the Secretary-General and set out in his report of 13 December 1991, in document A/46/634/Rev.1. The draft resolution is contained in Part III of the report of the Special Committee.

I should also like to introduce for consideration and support a draft resolution on the "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", contained in document A/55/L.58. It is my honour to announce that, since the publication of this draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors: Cuba, Syrian Arab Republic, Nauru and Solomon Islands. It is generally similar to the resolution adopted by the Assembly at its previous session. However, it varies in some respects. I shall endeavour to give the members a detailed overview of its contents.

By the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly — while reaffirming its resolution 1514 (XV) containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions on decolonization — would refer to the end of the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and to a proclamation of a second International Decade, beginning in the year 2001 and ending in 2010.

The draft resolution reaffirms that the existence of colonialism is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in it the Assembly would reaffirm its determination to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism. The draft resolution affirms once again the General Assembly's support for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

Regarding the ongoing efforts by the Special Committee to engage the administering Powers in continuing dialogue, the draft resolution contains a provision by which the Assembly would call upon the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee to finalize, before the end of the year 2001, a constructive programme of work on an case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including in this respect the resolutions on specific territories.

Operative paragraph 8 of this draft resolution contains special provisions relating to the programme of work of the Special Committee. The Assembly would request the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration; to formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism; to examine the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization; to pay special attention to the small Territories, including through the dispatch of visiting missions; and to finalize before the end of 2001 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Territories.

The Assembly would also request the Special Committee to take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments and national and international organizations for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions; to conduct seminars for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars; and to observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The draft resolution also contains a call for all States, particularly the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

In the draft resolution the Assembly would also call upon the administering Powers to ensure that all economic activities in the Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and it would urge the administering Powers to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Territories to their natural resources.

By the terms of the draft resolution, the Assembly would reiterate that military activities and arrangements by administering Powers in the Territories should not run counter to the rights and interests of the peoples of the Territories, especially their right to self-determination. It would call upon the administering Powers concerned to terminate such activities and to eliminate the remaining military bases in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and would further call upon the administering Powers to promote alternative sources of livelihood for the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. This later addition to this paragraph addresses the economic vacuum which may be created as a result of the downsizing and subsequent closure of military bases in those Territories.

The Assembly would urge all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Also in this connection, it would request the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Territories.

The draft resolution also contains a provision reaffirming that United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants. In this regard, the Assembly would call on the administering Powers to cooperate with the Special Committee and to facilitate visiting missions.

In this connection, I must add that, in my personal capacity as representative of Papua New Guinea, I have been privileged to visit two Non-Self-Governing Territories. My visit to New Caledonia, as head of a visiting mission comprising countries of the Pacific region, at the invitation of the administering Power, proved to be invaluable in every respect, since it gave the members of the mission an opportunity to learn first-hand about the Territory, its peoples and its political and socio-economic realities and gave the members insight into the challenges the Territory confronts in its quest for self-determination. The report of this particular mission is contained in document A/54/921, dated 16 June 2000.

My other visit, to Guam, was of an informal nature, on a stopover to the Marshall Islands, where the Special Committee held its regional seminar. I respectfully submit that, although the reports prepared by the Secretariat about the Territories are informative and useful, a visiting mission offers opportunities for interaction that are unique and can only help the decolonization process.

The draft resolution I have just introduced is the product of consultations that have been carried out in an open and transparent manner with interested delegations, including the European Union and the administering Powers. Efforts were made to take into account the views of the Member States participating in the consultations and to address their concerns. Though such efforts may not have succeeded in accommodating all the views, the spirit of cooperation that has characterized these consultations must be noted.

Before concluding, I should like to express to the Secretary-General, on behalf of the Special Committee, our appreciation for his having provided the necessary substantive and technical support required for the Committee's work and our satisfaction with the quality of the assistance rendered by the Secretariat. The capacity of the Special Committee to carry out its work is strengthened by the timeliness and reliability of the information and advice provided by the Secretariat on the various issues on the Committee's agenda. I commend especially the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Sattar, and his staff in the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, and Ms. Maria Maldonado of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs and her staff.

I wish also to thank the members of my Bureau for how they cooperated and contributed to the effectiveness of the Special Committee by attending to some issues when I was not personally available to address them. I make special mention of Ambassador Bruno Parrilla, the Permanent Representative of Cuba, and his Deputy, Ambassador Rafael Dausá; Mr. Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué of the Mission of Côte d'Ivoire; and the Rapporteur of the Special Committee, Mr. Fayssal Mekdad of the Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic.

As this may be the last time I will address the Assembly in my current capacity as the Chairman of the Special Committee, I wish also to thank the members of the Special Committee who have persevered with my leadership over the last two years and who have committed their time and energy to explore new ways of dealing with our specific mandate. This of course does not mean that in the future Papua New Guinea will vacate its responsibilities as a member of the Committee. We will continue to participate in the work of the Committee and pledge ourselves to work closely with the new Chairman to try to complete the work begun under our leadership for the development of the work programmes for each Non-Self-Governing Territory on a case-by-case basis.

I commend to the Assembly draft resolution A/55/L.58, on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as a steadfast expression of the commitment of the international community to the unconditional eradication of colonialism from the face of the Earth.

Mr. Lewis (Antigua and Barbuda): I speak on behalf of the 14 members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and as such I have the honour to address the Assembly on issues of decolonization under agenda item 18 and items related to this question. CARICOM continues to have a special interest in the interrelated issues of self-determination and decolonization, especially as it relates to the seven remaining small island Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Atlantic/Caribbean region: namely Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands, Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Montserrat.

CARICOM intensified its role in examining the future socio-economic, political and constitutional development of these Territories throughout the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. This role is pursuant to the United Nations Charter and is consistent with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. Our heightened interest is in clear recognition of the obvious fact that the Caribbean territories and their people are integral components of the Caribbean region. Their political and socio-economic development has a direct bearing on Caribbean regional integration.

Accordingly, CARICOM member States welcome the continued participation of the elected Governments of most of these Non-Self-Governing Territories as associate members or observers in CARICOM itself, and take note of the expressed interest of others in joining our regional grouping. Many of these territories are active members of associated CARICOM institutions as well, including the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, the Caribbean Development Bank, the University of the West Indies and others, along with other regional bodies such as the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology. Several of the small Territories share a common currency with fraternal eastern Caribbean independent States.

CARICOM member States are intricately involved in the continuing recovery efforts in the Territory of Montserrat, whose people have been suffering the effects of the social and economic crisis brought on that beleaguered island by the volcanic eruption there. We continue to provide sustained humanitarian assistance and temporary refuge for those escaping that natural disaster. CARICOM member States continue to participate in regional and international coordination efforts to assist those Montserratians who are returning to their homeland by facilitating the construction of housing in the areas of the country designated as safe zones.

Within the framework of the wider United Nations system, CARICOM States in 1992 devised the mechanism for the inclusion of those Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories which enjoy associate membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as official observers to the various United Nations world conferences in the social and economic sphere. As a result of these efforts, Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories have participated in the United Nations world conferences on environment and development, the sustainable development of small island developing States, population, social development, human settlements, natural disaster reduction, and women and development.

CARICOM continues to support United Nations resolutions and other initiatives in this regard in recognition of the importance of these activities to the development process of the Territories and in implementation of the longstanding mandates contained in resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, confirming that the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the wider United Nations system facilitates the process of decolonization. Just as important, this participation serves to provide these Territories with important points of reference in addressing international issues of direct relevance and impact to their socio-economic development process, consistent with the need for these Territories to develop their capacity to compete in an increasingly globalized world, which threatens to marginalize small island developing countries.

CARICOM takes this opportunity to express our gratitude to the States members of the General Assembly for continuing to facilitate the participation of the small island Territories in the international process through these observer status and associate membership mechanisms, and to call for the accelerated use of these features in the future.

As we come to the close of the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988 and in its companion resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, which approved a Plan of Action for that period, it is clear that the level of implementation of that Plan is less than we originally expected. The most meaningful provisions of that Plan were not carried out and priority actions, such as the creation of political education to heighten the awareness of the people of the Territories and the visits to each of the Territories by the Secretary-General or his Special Representative, were never undertaken. Further, the two critical analyses of the constitutional, political and economic development of the Territories, vital to a systematic and complete assessment by the international community of the prevailing conditions in these Territories, were not carried out.

The failure to implement these and other important actions in furtherance of the decolonization process continues to puzzle CARICOM member States, given the amount of political energy and resources historically devoted to self-determination and decolonization, resulting in some of the major successful initiatives of the United Nations.

Between the concerted action leading to the attainment of full self-determination by Namibia at the beginning of the 1990s and the steadfast commitment to the nation-building exercise initiated at the end of the 1990s in East Timor, there has been an insufficient effort to address the self-determination needs of the small island Territories. It is therefore necessary to reinvigorate the decolonization process for the small island Territories through a comprehensive plan of action for the second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism to complete the work left undone in the Plan of Action of the first Decade. Certainly, this is an achievable goal if the requisite human and financial resources of the United Nations system are utilized to address this unfinished business.

In this context, member States can build upon the foundation created by the recommendations of the regional seminars convened annually since 1990, alternately in the Caribbean and Pacific. Such recommendations include the importance of a fair and unbiased political education programme for the people of the Territories regarding their legitimate political options of equality; increased cooperation between the United Nations and regional institutions in furtherance of the self-determination process, as has been seen with the South Pacific Forum as relates to New Caledonia; the establishment of an expert group comprised of representatives of the Territories to articulate their concerns and interests; the annual preparation of a status report on the implementation of decolonization resolutions; and the implementation of the studies and analyses called for in the first Plan of Action.

These recommendations of the peoples of the Territories themselves should be integrated into the plan of action of the second International Decade. Had they been included in the first Plan of Action — and implemented — the process of self-determination would have been much further along at this late stage, when many continue to ponder the question of why this issue is still with us as we approach the new millennium.

In this connection, CARICOM wishes to reiterate its long-held position that the decolonization process has not been completed, but rather requires unique remedies for protecting the inalienable rights of the people of the Territories, and in particular those small island Territories which require special consideration as a result of the vulnerabilities that they share with other small island developing countries in their respective regions. It is these unique remedies, consistent with adherence to international principles of political equality and with the maximum possible participation of the representatives of the Territories themselves, that the international community must focus upon if the work of the United Nations in decolonization in the twenty-first century is to be successful.

We take some encouragement from the developments over the last year within the framework of the Committee of 24, resulting in a process of informal consultation between the Committee and representatives of the Territories themselves, and from the fact that the administering Powers contributed to important clarifications on the often intricate dynamics of the remaining dependency arrangements. We urge the relevant administering Powers to resume their formal cooperation with the Committee of 24, which has gone the extra mile, and beyond, since the thaw of the cold war by streamlining its work; by reducing what some considered to be contentious language in its resolutions; by focusing more attention on socio-economic development issues in the Territories; by reducing its budgetary requests, almost to a fault; by acquiescing to substantial reorganizations of the secretarial services provided to it; and by eliminating its only two subcommittees, among other measures taken, all for the purpose of addressing the concerns articulated a decade and a half ago that precipitated the withdrawal of several administering Powers from cooperation with the Committee in the first instance.

It is now time for a reciprocal show of goodwill so that the Committee can resume its work in earnest, with all the stakeholders at the table — the Member States, the administering Powers and the representatives of the people of the Territories themselves. The existing informal and closed dialogue between the Committee of 24 and the administering Powers should now quickly evolve into the resumption of formal, open and transparent discussions in formal meetings of the Committee. That is the best chance for this process to move forward.

Within this context, CARICOM wishes to reaffirm its unwavering support for the long-standing principles of complete and absolute equality as the operational guide in achieving innovative and flexible solutions to the decolonization of the remaining small island Territories, through the three legitimate options for political status: independence, free association or integration with full political rights, as defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV). Small island Territories have no less right to political equality than other Territories that have been decolonized before them. Until the existing unequal dependency arrangements that remain inconsistent with full political equality are addressed, there will be a need for continuing oversight by the United Nations. CARICOM intends to play its rightful role in that oversight, especially as it relates to the small island Territories of our beloved Caribbean region.

Mr. Dausá Céspedes (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Significant achievements have been made by the United Nations in the area of decolonization since the adoption, in 1960, of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The current world map does not look anything like the one the founders of the Organization had before them. There is no doubt that the decolonization process has been one of the greatest victories of the United Nations. However, when 10 years ago we set the goal of being free from colonialism by the twenty-first century, we could not have imagined that, at the end of the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, we were going to be faced with the bitter reality of still having 17 Territories under colonial domination; or that, in all that time, real progress in the decolonization process was going to be minimal. It is truly unjustifiable, in a world that has supposedly moved from confrontation to cooperation, that there are still peoples that suffer the horrors of colonialism and that there continue to be administering Powers that refuse to cooperate with the decolonizing work begun by the United Nations and the bodies established to that end.

We are once again faced with discriminatory theories that try to justify the unjustifiable colonial status of some Territories by putting forward fatalistic arguments that would doom those Territories to live forever under the colonial yoke. We once again reiterate our strong conviction that the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of peoples under colonial domination must be respected by all, regardless of the size of a given Territory, its geographical location, the number of its citizens or the amount of natural resources it has. It is also unacceptable that some Powers are trying to deprive Territories under colonization of their right to independence while insisting on speaking solely of the right to self-determination, as if the right to self-determination could be divorced from the exercise of independence. Likewise, it is unacceptable that some are even trying to distort the right to self-determination by using new formulas or simply by changing the name of the Territories under their domination.

The Special Committee on Decolonization has periodically reviewed its working methods over the years with the basic aim of making its work increasingly effective and efficient. Regrettably, the effectiveness and results of the Special Committee's work do not depend solely on the will and efforts of its members. The cooperation of the administering Powers is a vitally important element for any progress we wish to make in the decolonizing effort.

While it is encouraging that in recent months administering Powers have maintained an informal dialogue with the Special Committee — especially some Powers that had not previously done so — we continue to be concerned by the continuing reluctance to consolidate and make that dialogue official. Despite the constructive spirit and the willingness to engage in dialogue with which the Special Committee has approached its work in an effort to involve the administering Powers, the facts make it impossible for us to deny reality. Some administering Powers continue to refuse to establish an official and serious relationship with the Special Committee and are attempting to create as many hurdles as possible for our work.

Despite the fact that visiting missions are an ideal mechanism for obtaining first-hand information about the economic, political and social situation in a Territory, it is now difficult to recall the last time that such a mission actually went to a Non-Self-Governing Territory. Some administering Powers even continue to fail to convey in a timely manner requisite information about the Territories under their domination, as is clearly called for in Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations. Some administering Powers also continue to carry out military activities in the Territories under their domination, to the detriment of the rights and interests of the peoples affected; and some administering Powers continue to irrationally exploit the natural resources of Non-Self-Governing Territories, in flagrant violation of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV).

Cuba once again reaffirms its commitment to the independence and self-determination of its sister nation of Puerto Rico. Although it has been under the colonial yoke for over 100 years, Puerto Rico has not lost one iota of its identity as a nation of Latin American and the Caribbean. The colonial Power employs every sort of manoeuvre to confuse international public opinion and distort the economic, political and social reality of Puerto Rico. However, there is only one reality: Puerto Rico continues to be deprived of its legitimate right to self-determination and to exist as a sovereign and independent nation.

Cuba strongly supports the proclamation of a second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism as a way of showing the international community the high priority accorded by the United Nations to decolonization activities, and as a mechanism to provide the necessary continuity to the work carried out over all these years.

At the threshold of the twenty-first century, the goal of a world without colonialism will have to wait a little longer to be fulfilled. Though we cannot say that there has not been any progress in recent times; yet the results are regrettably very far short of our expectations and, above all, of the expectations of the Territories living under colonial domination, which desire to be able to exercise their right to freedom, sovereignty and independence.

The draft resolution before us, which our delegation will support, attempts to reflect that desire, and the hope that, sooner rather than later, the scourge of colonialism, with all of its accompanying blights, will disappear from the face of the earth.

Mr. Carlot (Vanuatu): As a Melanesian and Pacific country, the Republic of Vanuatu is deeply concerned about the continuing and escalating violation of human rights against the indigenous people of West Papua.

We are further concerned that the international community — which is increasingly putting a lot of pressure on our countries, which have small and vulnerable economies, to observe the principles of transparency and human rights standards — seems oblivious of the sufferings of our Melanesian brothers and sisters in West Papua. The illegal crossing of the border between West Papua and Papua New Guinea is a concern that we fully appreciate and share. We also well appreciate that the illegal movement across this long border, and the resulting refugee population, will only increase with escalating tension and violence.

In October 2000 the Pacific Islands Forum leaders expressed deep concern about past and present violence and loss of life in West Papua. They called on the Government of Indonesia, as the sovereign authority, and on the secessionist groups to resolve their differences peacefully through dialogue and consultation. The Pacific Islands Forum leaders urged all parties to protect and uphold the human rights of all residents of West Papua. Vanuatu is committed to this collective plea for peace and respect for human rights.

With respect to decolonization and the granting of independence to colonies and Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Republic of Vanuatu takes the firm view that the United Nations played a direct role in the conclusion of the 1962 New York Agreement and in the resulting so-called referendum in 1969. This process led to the volatile and difficult situation the world is watching today. On that basis, the United Nations has a moral and legal duty to facilitate a review of those earlier undertakings in the interests of all the people of the region, in particular the people of West Papua.

The President returned to the Chair.

For its part, Vanuatu implores Indonesia, as the sovereign authority pursuant to the relevant United Nations mandate, to exercise its goodwill and diplomatic acumen and give due consideration to the ultimate placing of West Papua on the decolonization list for future appropriate action by the Committee of 24. My Government stands ready to cooperate and assist in this process of negotiation and diplomacy with Indonesia and other interested Member States.

Secondly, the information received on West Papua comes predominantly from media organizations and pro-independence groups. Official reports are therefore very scarce, and they provide to the world a very sketchy picture of the atrocities, the refugee situation and other critical factors in this crisis.

On that basis, Vanuatu calls on this Assembly, with the concurrence of Indonesia, to recommend to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to initiate a visiting human rights mission or send an envoy to West Papua. A report by such a mission would illuminate further dialogue or negotiation within the United Nations on the critical situation, or otherwise, in West Papua.

Recent history teaches us that over two decades of atrocities in East Timor have been wanton and wasteful, and they continue to absorb the scarce resources of the United Nations and its Member States. Hopefully, global consciousness today will awaken us to the need to avoid another East Timor in West Papua.

Vanuatu is confident that the values and principles of the United Nations Charter can be upheld meaningfully against today's difficult challenges. The new millennium offers a unique opportunity that we, the United Nations, cannot afford to miss, and must not miss, to find a lasting solution that will safeguard global peace and security and the identity of the people of West Papua.

Today, as we celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the granting of independence to colonies and territories, we must remain forward-looking and aspire to a world of true decolonization in the not-too-distant future.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

I should like to inform members that the General Assembly will take action on the three draft resolutions under agenda item 18 after all of the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee have been considered.

Reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

The President: The General Assembly will consider the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) on agenda items 82 to 88, 89 and 18, 90 and 12, 91 as well as 18.

I request the Rapporteur of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, Mr. Shingo Miyamoto of Japan, to introduce in one intervention the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

Mr. Miyamoto (Japan), Rapporteur of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): I have the honour to introduce the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) to the General Assembly for its consideration and approval. These reports refer to each of the 12 items allocated to the Fourth Committee by the General Assembly. They indicate the documents that were made available for its consideration and contain the texts of the resolutions and decisions on which it took action.

The Fourth Committee considered the items on its agenda separately, with the exception of matters pertaining to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and related issues, on which it held one single general debate.

Throughout its session during the first part of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Committee held a total of 28 meetings. It should be noted that the Committee made every effort to conclude its business within the allocated time frame, while utilizing the resources made available to it as efficiently as possible. However, it was necessary to extend the session of the Committee and to frequently reschedule meetings, due chiefly to the unavailability of a document, as well as to the special need arising this year from the consideration of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, otherwise referred to as the Brahimi report, by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

The Fourth Committee adopted 26 draft resolutions and three draft decisions, of which 14 draft resolutions and two draft decisions were adopted by consensus.

The first report, submitted under agenda item 82, "Effects of atomic radiation", is contained in document A/55/568. The Fourth Committee this year considered an extensive report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), which covers its work during the forty-fourth through forty-ninth sessions. It should be noted that two delegations voiced substantial concern about the content of the UNSCEAR report and proposed amendments to the draft resolution that the Fourth Committee had before it. After extensive consultations among interested delegations, it was possible to arrive at the text of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 11 of the report, which was adopted by consensus by the Fourth Committee. In this draft resolution, the General Assembly, among other things, notes with appreciation the work of UNSCEAR and the release of its extensive report; endorses its intentions and plans for future scientific review and assessment activities; and invites it to continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in preparing future scientific reports. On behalf of the Fourth Committee, I commend this draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly.

The second report, relating to agenda item 83, "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space", is contained in document A/55/569. During the debate on this agenda item, the Fourth Committee took note of the interest of several countries in becoming full members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Another important aspect of the discussions in the Fourth Committee was how to ensure the implementation of the recommendations contained in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development," adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

As part of its work, the Committee established an open-ended working group which, under the chairmanship of the delegation of Chile, formulated the draft resolution contained in paragraph 12 of the report. After several meetings and extensive informal consultations among interested parties, this draft resolution was adopted by the Fourth Committee by consensus. Among other things, it requests the Secretary-General to begin implementing those measures and activities that are contained in the plan of action for implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III and that are currently within the programme of work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and also to ensure the full implementation of the plan with the necessary resources in 2002. On behalf of the Fourth Committee, I recommend this draft resolution to the General Assembly for adoption.

The third report, issued as document A/55/570, refers to agenda item 84, "United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East". The Fourth Committee took note of the fact that it had been more than 50 years since the establishment of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In that context, it recognized the important function the Agency has been performing since its establishment to improve the living conditions of Palestine refugees, and it reiterated its concern at the persistent critical financial situation of the Agency. The Committee adopted seven draft resolutions on various aspects of the mandate of UNRWA. These draft resolutions appear in paragraph 22 of the report. The Fourth Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it adopt these draft resolutions.

The fourth report, referring to agenda item 85, "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories", is contained in document A/55/571. The Committee considered the report of the Special Committee concerning the protection and promotion of the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories. The vast majority of delegations speaking under this agenda item expressed support and appreciation for the activities of the Special Committee. However, it should also be noted that several delegations, including one that spoke on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern about the nature of the activities of the Special Committee. On this subject, the Committee adopted five draft resolutions, to be found in paragraph 20 of the report. The Fourth Committee recommends these draft resolutions to the General Assembly for adoption.

The fifth report, relating to agenda item 86, entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects", appears in document A/55/572. The Fourth Committee received and considered a mid-term report by Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the implementation by the Secretariat of the recommendations of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. In parallel with and following the debate on this agenda item in the Fourth Committee, at the extraordinary session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations its working group considered extensively the Brahimi report and its associated documents. The outcome of this consideration was reported to the Fourth Committee, as reflected in this report. The Fourth Committee recommends the draft resolution that appears in paragraph 11 of this report for adoption by the General Assembly.

The sixth report, submitted under item 87, entitled "Questions relating to information", is contained in document A/55/573. After hearing a comprehensive introductory statement by Under-Secretary-General Hogen of the Department of Public Information, the Committee stressed the central role of public information in projecting a strong image of the United Nations and promoting a proper understanding of its work. Furthermore, in the light of the rapid developments in the area of information technology, it underscored the need to explore possibilities for cooperation in the spheres of information and communications so that their benefits can be shared by all the peoples of the world.

After considering the report submitted to it by the Committee on Information, the Fourth Committee adopted two draft resolutions and one draft decision. The latter, when adopted by the General Assembly, will increase the membership of the Committee on Information by two countries and appoint Armenia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya as new members. The draft resolutions are contained in paragraph 10 of the report and the draft decision in paragraph 11. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt both draft resolutions and the draft decision.

With regard to the items on Non-Self-Governing Territories and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples — agenda items 18, 88, 89, 90 and 12, and 91, which were considered together — the Fourth Committee considered the degree of implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, bearing in mind that this year marks the end of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. It recognized the important contribution of the United Nations to decolonization and reaffirmed its commitment to continue to take the necessary measures for the advent of a world free from colonialism in the twenty-first century. In this context, many delegations voiced support for the need for a second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, bearing in mind that the objectives of the first decade were not fully achieved, as reflected in the draft resolution on which the General Assembly will be taking action shortly.

On these items, the General Assembly has before it a number of reports. The report on agenda item 88, entitled "Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations", is contained in document A/55/574. The draft resolution on this item appears in paragraph 8 of the report, and the Fourth Committee recommends it to the General Assembly for adoption.

The report relating to agenda items 89 and 18, entitled, respectively, "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories" and "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to

Colonial Countries and Peoples", is contained in document A/55/575. Under these two items, the Committee adopted one draft resolution and one draft decision. The Fourth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution and the draft decision, which are contained in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report, respectively.

With regard to agenda items 90 and 12, entitled, respectively, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations" and "Report of the Economic and Social Council", the report of the Fourth Committee is contained in document A/55/576.

On these issues, the Committee adopted one draft resolution, which is contained in paragraph 9 of the report, and recommends it to the General Assembly for adoption.

The report relating to agenda item 91, entitled "Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories", has been issued as document A/55/577.

Paragraph 6 of that document contains the text of a draft resolution adopted by the Fourth Committee, which it recommends to the General Assembly for adoption.

The report issued under item 18, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", appears in document A/55/578, which contains the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to specific Territories not covered by other agenda items. In this context, the Committee adopted five draft resolutions, including a draft omnibus resolution covering 11 Territories, and one draft decision. The draft resolutions are contained in paragraph 24 of the report and the draft decision in paragraph 25. The Fourth Committee recommends the draft resolutions and the draft decision to the General Assembly for adoption.

Before I conclude, I should like to stress the high level of cooperation prevailing in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, which enabled it to achieve satisfactory results and complete its work effectively and constructively. In this context, I should like to express, on behalf of the Bureau of the Fourth Committee, our profound appreciation to those delegations which coordinated the draft resolutions adopted by the Committee. I should also like to thank all delegations that participated in the efforts to reach consensus and, when this was not possible, to narrow the differences among interested parties. All such contributions were made with a prevailing spirit of cooperation.

I would be remiss if I failed to pay tribute to the work carried out by the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Matia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka of Uganda, which made it possible for the Committee to consider in depth all the agenda items allocated to it by the General Assembly, despite the wide-ranging and often difficult issues it had to address. The Vice-Chairpersons — Ambassador Lewis of Antigua and Barbuda, Ms. Polić of Croatia and Mr. Vassallo of Malta, with whom I had the pleasure of working, also contributed to our success.

I should also like to express my appreciation for the able cooperation of Mr. Mohammad Sattar, the Secretary of the Committee, and the competent team from the Secretariat that assisted him. All of them helped organize and ensure that the work of the Committee was carried out in an atmosphere of genuine cordiality.

I have the honour to submit to the General Assembly for its consideration and adoption the recommendations of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee contained in the reports to which I have referred.

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, unless the Secretariat is notified to the contrary in advance. This means that where recorded votes were taken, we will do the same. I should also hope that we will proceed to adopt without a vote recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

Agenda item 82

Effects of atomic radiation

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/55/568)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 11 of its report.

The Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/121).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 82?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 83

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/55/569)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 12 of its report.

The Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/122).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 83?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 84

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/55/570)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the seven draft resolutions recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 22 of its report.

After all the votes have been taken, representatives will again have an opportunity to explain their votes.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Assistance to Palestine refugees".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel.

Abstaining:

Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 156 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions (resolution 55/123).

[Subsequently the delegation of the Republic of Korea informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: We now turn to draft resolution II, entitled "Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East". The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 55/124).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities".

A recorded voted has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian

Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of).

Draft resolution III was adopted by 156 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions (resolution 55/125).

The President: We turn next to draft resolution IV, entitled "Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Israel.

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 160 to none, with 1 abstention (resolution 55/126).

The President: Draft resolution V is entitled "Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of).

Draft resolution V was adopted by 157 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions (resolution 55/127).

The President: We come now to draft resolution VI entitled "Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of).

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 156 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions (resolution 55/128).

The President: We now turn to draft resolution VII entitled "University of Jerusalem 'Al-Quds' for Palestine refugees".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru.

Draft resolution VII was adopted by 156 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions (resolution 55/129).

The President: The General Assembly has concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 84.

Agenda item 85

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

(A/55/571)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the five draft resolutions recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 20 of its report. After all the votes have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their votes.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian people and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 91 votes to 2, with 61 abstentions (resolution 55/130).

The President: We turn now to draft resolution II, entitled "Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of).

Draft resolution II was adopted by 152 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions (resolution 55/131).

The President: Now we turn to draft resolution III entitled "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 152 votes to 4 (resolution 55/132).

The President: We turn next to draft resolution IV entitled "Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Micronesia (Federated States of).

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 150 votes to 3, with 1 abstention (resolution 55/133).

The President: We now turn to draft resolution V entitled "The occupied Syrian Golan".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel.

Abstaining:

Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America.

Draft resolution V was adopted by 150 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions (resolution 55/134).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 85?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 86

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/55/572)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 11 of its report. The Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/135).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 86.

Agenda item 87

Questions relating to information

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/55/573)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolutions A and B, recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 10 of its report, and on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 11 of the same report.

We turn first to draft resolution A, entitled "Information in the service of humanity". The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution A without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to the same?

Draft resolution A was adopted (resolution 55/136 A).

The President: We now turn to draft resolution B, entitled "United Nations public information and policies and activities". The Committee adopted draft resolution B without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution B was adopted (resolution 55/136 B).

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision entitled "Increase in the membership of the Committee on Information". The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 87?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 88

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/55/574)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in paragraph 8 of its report.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

France, Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The draft resolution was adopted by 153 votes to none, with 5 abstentions (resolution 55/137).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 88?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 89 and agenda item 18 (*continued*)

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/55/575)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in paragraph 11 of its report and on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 12 of that report.

We turn first to the draft resolution, which is entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories". I have been informed that no separate vote has been requested on paragraph 7 of the draft resolution.

I now put the draft resolution to the vote. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Croatia, France, Georgia, Micronesia (Federated States of), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The draft resolution was adopted by 151 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions (resolution 55/138).

[Subsequently the delegation of Croatia informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: We turn now to the draft decision recommended in paragraph 12 of the report, which is entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration". A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cyprus, Georgia, Micronesia (Federated States of), Samoa, Tonga.

The draft decision was adopted by 100 votes to 47, with 5 abstentions.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 89?

It was so decided.

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 18.

Agenda item 90 and agenda item 12 (*continued*)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/55/576)

The President: The General Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in paragraph 9 of its report. The draft resolution is entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

The draft resolution was adopted by 109 votes to none, with 50 abstentions (resolution 55/139).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 90?

It was so decided.

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 12.

Agenda item 91

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/55/577)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in paragraph 6 of its report. The draft resolution was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/140).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 91?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 18 (*continued*)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/55/578)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the four draft resolutions recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 24 of its report and on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 25 of the same report.

We turn first to the four draft resolutions contained in paragraph 24 of the report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Question of Western Sahara".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 55/141).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Question of New Caledonia".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 55/142).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Question of Tokelau".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 55/143).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 55/144).

The President: We now turn to the draft decision contained in paragraph 25 of the report.

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted the draft decision, entitled "Question of Gibraltar", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 18.

The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) before it.

Agenda item 18 (*continued*)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Draft resolutions (A/55/23 (Part III), Chapter XIII, section G, para. 7 and section H, para. 8, A/55/L.58)

The President: We shall now proceed to consider the two draft resolutions contained in part III, chapter XIII, section G, paragraph 7 and section H, paragraph 8, respectively, of document A/55/23, and draft resolution A/55/L.58.

The Assembly will first take a decision on the draft resolution entitled, "Dissemination of information on decolonization", contained in part III, chapter XIII, section G, paragraph 7 of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/55/23).

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

France, Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of).

The draft resolution was adopted by 153 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions (resolution 55/145).

The President: The Assembly will next take a decision on the draft resolution entitled "Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", contained in part III, chapter XIII, section H, paragraph 8 of the report of the Special Committee.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

The draft resolution was adopted by 125 votes to 2, with 30 abstentions (resolution 55/146).

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/55/L.58, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San

Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Turkey.

Draft resolution A/55/L.58 was adopted by 138 votes to 2, with 18 abstentions (resolution 55/147).

The President: I call on the representative of the United Kingdom, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote on the resolutions just adopted. May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Eldon (United Kingdom): I am taking the floor to explain the United Kingdom's votes on resolution 55/147, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, resolution 55/145, on the dissemination of information on decolonization, and resolution 55/146, on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

As members of the Assembly will have seen, we voted against all of these resolutions.

On the resolution on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the United Kingdom continues to find some elements of this text unacceptable. These include, but are not limited to, operative paragraph 12, which calls on the administering Powers to eliminate the remaining military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. This language is drawn from the decision on military activities, which we also voted against this year.

With regard to resolution 55/145, the United Kingdom remains of the view that the obligation which this text places on the Secretariat to publicize decolonization issues represents an unwarranted drain on the scarce resources of the United Nations. The resolution is therefore unacceptable.

Finally, my delegation has a few comments on the resolution on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. We have read carefully the Secretary-General's report on the first Decade and take the view that there is scant evidence in it that the activities of the Decade were of any great benefit to the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In contrast, we are firmly of the opinion that the interests of those peoples are more likely to be furthered through the informal dialogue of administering Powers with the Committee of 24, which falls outside the activities mandated by this resolution.

We are thus concerned that the activities of the first Decade have not been an efficient use of United Nations resources. Moreover, no plan of action for the second Decade has yet been submitted, and we are therefore unaware of what implications it may have for the handling of decolonization issues in general or for particular United Kingdom territories.

We cannot support a request to provide resources for as yet unspecified activities; nor would we support a request to renew activities which have failed to achieve their objectives in the past.

Despite our negative votes on these resolutions, the United Kingdom delegation remains sincerely committed to furthering the process of informal dialogue with the Committee of 24 over the coming year. We look forward to working in a constructive and cooperative spirit in order to take forward the development of programmes of work on individual United Kingdom territories, with a view to their eventual de-listing from the Committee's agenda.

Finally, with your permission Mr. President, and to save some time, I should like to say a few words in right of reply to the remarks on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands made this morning by the representative of Chile, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group of States, under this agenda item during the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The United Kingdom's position on this issue is well known. It was most recently set out in full in my right of reply to the statement by the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina to the General Assembly on 21 September.

The President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of vote after the voting.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 18?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

United Nations A/55/PV.84

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session

Official Records

84th plenary meeting

Tuesday, 12 December 2000, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Holkeri . . . . (Finland)

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Reports of the Sixth Committee

The President: The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the Sixth Committee on agenda items 154 to 165, 171, 172 and 184.

I request the Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee, Mr. Drahoslav Štefánek of Slovakia, to introduce in one intervention the reports of the Sixth Committee before the General Assembly.

Mr. Štefánek (Slovakia), Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee: I have the honour today to present to the General Assembly the reports of the Sixth Committee on the 15 agenda items allocated to it, namely, items 154 to 165, 171, 172 and 184.

I will start my introduction of the reports of the Sixth Committee with agenda item 154, entitled "Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order". The relevant report of the Committee is contained in document A/55/604, and the draft decision recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is found in paragraph 6 thereof.

Under the terms of the draft decision, the General Assembly would decide to resume consideration of the legal aspects of international economic relations at its fifty-eighth session.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote, and I hope that the Assembly will do the same.

I now invite the Assembly's attention to agenda item 155, entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts". The relevant report of the Committee is contained in document A/55/605, and the draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is found in paragraph 8 thereof.

Under the terms of the draft resolution, the Assembly would in particular appeal to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Additional Protocols at the earliest possible date; call upon all States that are already parties to Protocol I, or those States not parties, on becoming parties to Protocol I, to make the declaration provided for under article 90 of that Protocol; and call upon all States which have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols and to other relevant treaties on international humanitarian law.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote, and it is hoped that the Assembly will do the same.

I now turn to agenda item 156, entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the

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protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives". The relevant report of the Sixth Committee is contained in document A/55/606, and the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee to the General Assembly for adoption is set out in paragraph 8 thereof.

Under the terms of the draft resolution, the Assembly would, inter alia, strongly condemn the recent acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as against officials of intergovernmental organizations, and would urge States to take all necessary measures at the national and international levels to prevent any such acts of violence and to ensure, with the participation of the United Nations where appropriate, that such acts are fully investigated with a view to bringing offenders to justice.

It is hoped that the Assembly, like the Sixth Committee, will adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

I now invite the Assembly's attention to agenda item 157, entitled "Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property". The relevant report of the Sixth Committee has been issued under the symbol A/55/607. The Sixth Committee recommends the draft resolution found in paragraph 11 of its report to the General Assembly for adoption.

Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, inter alia, decide to establish an ad hoc Committee on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property, open also to participation by States members of the specialized agencies; and to further the work done, consolidate areas of agreement and resolve outstanding issues with a view to elaborating a generally acceptable instrument based on the draft articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property adopted by the International Law Commission at its forty-third session, and also based on the discussions of the open-ended working group of the Sixth Committee established under resolutions 53/98 and 54/101 and their results. The ad hoc Committee would meet for two weeks in March 2002.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote, and I hope that the Assembly will do the same.

I turn now to agenda item 158, entitled "Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-third session". The relevant report of the Sixth Committee on this item is contained in document A/55/608, and the draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is found in paragraph 8 thereof.

Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, inter alia, commend the Commission for the progress made in its work, reaffirm the mandate of the Commission to coordinate legal activities in the field of international trade law, and stress the importance of bringing into effect the conventions emanating from the work of the Commission. The Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implications of increasing the membership of the Commission, and would invite Member States to submit their views on that issue.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. The Assembly may wish to do so as well.

I now turn on agenda item 159, entitled "Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-second session". The relevant report of the Sixth Committee is contained in document A/55/609, and the draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is contained in paragraph 10 thereof.

Under the terms of the draft resolution, the Assembly would, inter alia, express its appreciation to the International Law Commission for the work accomplished at its fifty-second session, in particular with respect to the topic "State responsibility", and would encourage the Commission to complete its work on that topic during its fifty-third session. The Assembly would also reiterate its invitation to Governments to respond to the questionnaire on unilateral acts of States circulated by the Secretariat, and to submit the most relevant national legislation, decisions of domestic courts and State practice relevant to diplomatic protection. The General Assembly would furthermore decide that the next session of the Commission shall be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 23 April to 1 June and from 2 July to 10 August 2001. It would recommend that the International Law Commission continue its work on the topics in its current programme.

Noting with appreciation the work done by the Commission on the topic "International liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law", the Assembly would also request the Commission to resume consideration of the liability aspects of that topic as soon as the second reading of the draft articles on the prevention of transboundary damage from hazardous activities is completed.

The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. It is hoped that the Assembly will adopt this draft resolution without a vote as well.

I now turn to agenda item 160, "Nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States". The report of the Sixth Committee on this item is contained in document A/55/610, and the draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is found in paragraph 7 thereof.

Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, inter alia, express its appreciation to the International Law Commission for its valuable work on this topic. It would also take note of the articles on nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States, presented by the International Law Commission in the form of a declaration, the text of which is annexed to the draft resolution. It would further invite Governments to take into account, as appropriate, the provisions contained therein in dealing with issues of nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States and recommend that all efforts be made for the wide dissemination of the text of those articles.

It is hoped that the General Assembly will, like the Sixth Committee, adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

Let me now turn to agenda item 161, "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country". The report of the Sixth Committee on this item is contained in document A/55/611 and Corrigendum 1, and the draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is found in paragraph 8 thereof.

Under the terms of the draft resolution, the Assembly would, in particular, endorse the recommendations and conclusions of the Host Country Committee, request the host country to continue to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the functioning of missions and express its appreciation to the host country for its efforts. Furthermore, the Assembly would request the host country to consider removing the travel controls previously imposed on staff of certain missions and staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities. It would also request the host country to continue to take steps to resolve the problem relating to the parking of diplomatic vehicles.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. It is hoped that the Assembly will be in a position to act likewise.

I now turn to the report of the Sixth Committee under agenda item 162, "Establishment of the International Criminal Court". The report is contained in document A/55/612. The draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly is found in paragraph 8 thereof.

Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, inter alia, call upon all States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Assembly would also welcome the important work accomplished by the Preparatory Commission in the completion of the part of the mandate relating to the draft texts of the rules of procedure and evidence and the elements of crimes and request the Secretary-General to reconvene the Commission, in accordance with resolution F adopted by the Rome Conference, from 26 February to 9 March and from 24 September to 5 October 2001, to carry out the mandate of that resolution.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote and it is hoped that the Assembly will be in a position to do the same.

I now invite the Assembly's attention to agenda item 163, "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization". The relevant report of the Sixth Committee is contained in document A/55/613 and Corrigendum 1, and the two draft resolutions which the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption are contained in paragraph 14 thereof.

By draft resolution I, entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization", the General Assembly would, inter alia, request the Special Committee, at its next session from 2 to 12 April 2001, to continue its consideration of all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations. It would also request the Special Committee to continue to consider on a priority basis the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter.

The Assembly would further request the Special Committee to continue its work on the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States. Moreover, the Assembly would request the Special Committee to continue to consider proposals concerning the Trusteeship Council and to continue to consider, on a priority basis, ways and means of improving its working methods and enhancing its efficiency.

By draft resolution II, entitled "Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions", the General Assembly would, in particular, renew its invitation to the Security Council to consider the establishment of further mechanisms or procedures, as appropriate, for consultations as early as possible under Article 50 of the Charter with third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII. It would welcome the measures taken by the Security Council since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/51, most recently the note by the President of the Council concerning the establishment of an informal working group to develop general recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of sanctions.

Furthermore, it would welcome the report of the Secretary-General containing a summary of the deliberations and main findings of the ad hoc expert group meeting on developing a methodology for assessing the consequences incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures, and would request the Secretary-General to present to the Assembly any further views that he may have, as appropriate, on the deliberations and main findings, including the recommendations, of the ad hoc expert group.

Furthermore, the Assembly would decide to consider, within the Sixth Committee, or a working group of the Committee, at its fifty-sixth session, further progress in the elaboration of effective measures aimed at the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by sanctions.

These two draft resolutions were adopted without a vote by the Sixth Committee. The Assembly may wish to do the same.

I now turn to agenda item 164, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism". The report of the Sixth Committee is contained in document A/55/614. The draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is set out in paragraph 11 thereof.

Under the terms of draft resolution, the Assembly would, inter alia, strongly condemn all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed. Furthermore, the Assembly would decide that the Ad Hoc Committee established by resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 would continue to elaborate a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and would continue its efforts to resolve the outstanding issues relating to the elaboration of a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. The Ad Hoc Committee would also keep on its agenda the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Assembly would further decide that the Ad Hoc Committee would meet from 12 to 23 February 2001 and that the work would also continue during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, between 15 and 26 October 2001, within the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution by a recorded vote of 131 votes in favour to none against, with 2 abstentions.

I now turn to the report of the Sixth Committee under agenda item 165, "Review of the Statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal". This report is contained in document A/55/615. The draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly is set out in paragraph 6 thereof.

Under the terms of the draft resolution, the Assembly would introduce amendments to the Statute of the Tribunal with effect from 1 January 2001, in relation to the qualifications of its members and the length of their terms of appointment, consideration of cases raising significant questions of law and other issues, such as the use of the six official languages of the Organization.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. It is hoped the Assembly will do the same.

I now invite the Assembly's attention to agenda item 171, "Observer status for the Inter-American Development Bank in the General Assembly". The relevant report of the Committee is contained in document A/55/616. The draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 7 thereof.

Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide to invite the Inter-American Development Bank to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer. It would also request the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. I hope that the Assembly will be in a position to do the same.

I now turn to agenda item 172, "Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly". The relevant report of the Committee is contained in document A/55/617. The draft decision recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is found in paragraph 8 thereof.

Under the terms of the draft decision, the General Assembly would decide to resume its consideration of, and defer a decision on, the request for observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly to its fifty-sixth session.

The draft decision was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. I hope that the Assembly will do the same.

I finally turn to agenda item 184, "Observer status for the Economic Community of Central African States in the General Assembly". The relevant report of the Committee is contained in document A/55/648. The draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 7 thereof.

Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide to invite the Economic Community of Central African States to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer. It would also request the Secretary-General to take all the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. I hope that the Assembly will do the same.

This concludes my introduction of the reports of the Sixth Committee. On behalf of the Committee, I wish to express our gratitude to you, Mr. President, for the guidance and assistance you accorded to the Sixth Committee throughout its work during this session. Let me also thank the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, Mr. Hans Corell, for his assistance and leadership provided to the Committee.

I also wish to thank the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, Professor Mauro Politi of Italy, as well as the Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Kenjika Ekedede of Nigeria, Mr. Salah Suheimat of Jordan and Mr. Marcelo Vázquez of Ecuador, for their valuable advice, support and friendship given to me.

I wish to also express my gratitude to the Secretary of the Sixth Committee, Mr. Václav Mikulka, as well as to the other members of the Secretariat of the Sixth Committee, in particular Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Mr. Manuel Rama-Montaldo, Mr. Serguei Tarassenko, Mr. Vladimir Rudnitsky and also other officers, for their assistance throughout the session and in the preparation of the various reports of the Sixth Committee.

Before concluding, in order to submit indeed a comprehensive report, I should like to mention that a very popular draft resolution was submitted by Australia and several other co-sponsors. Under the terms of that draft, the members of the Sixth Committee and the Secretariat participated in the social gathering after the completion of the work of the Committee on 22 November. Since that draft resolution was implemented in the nearby Mica Bar within the 24 hours since its introduction, there was no need to incorporate the draft into a formal report. I would like to express my wish in this regard that all draft resolutions would be implemented in such a speedy manner, though not necessarily in the terms of the same substance.

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Sixth Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Sixth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in the Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Sixth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Sixth Committee unless the Secretariat is notified otherwise in advance. This means that where a recorded vote was taken, we will do the same. I should also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Sixth Committee.

Agenda item 154

Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/604)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The draft decision was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 154?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 155

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/605)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/148).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 155?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 156

Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/606)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/149).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 156?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 157

Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/607)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 11 of its report. The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly likewise wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/150).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 157?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 158

Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-third session

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/608)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/151).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 158?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 159

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-second session

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/609)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report. The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/152).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 159?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 160

Nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/610)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly also wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/153).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 160?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 161

Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/611 and Corr.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly also wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/154).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 161?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 162

Establishment of the International Criminal Court

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/612)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly likewise wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/155).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 162?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 163

Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/613 and Corr.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 14 of its report.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization". Draft resolution I was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 55/156).

The President: Draft resolution II, entitled "Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions", was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly also wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 55/157).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 163?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 164

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/614)

The President: The General Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 11 of its report. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao

People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic.

The draft resolution was adopted by 151 votes to none, with 2 abstentions (resolution 55/158).

[Subsequently the delegations of Botswana and Mozambique informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote.

Mr. Gomaa (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have asked for the floor to explain my delegation's vote on the resolution just adopted by the General Assembly on measures to eliminate international terrorism. It is an honour for me to inform the Assembly that all the Arab delegations have endorsed this statement.

All the Arab States condemn terrorism in all its aspects and forms, whether committed by individuals, groups or States. All the Arab delegations, therefore, cooperated in a positive and serious manner with the coordinator of the resolution that has been adopted and with other delegations, demonstrating great flexibility in reaching a balanced resolution.

The Arab delegations reaffirm their understanding of the second preambular paragraph of the resolution, which refers to all relevant General Assembly resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism, including resolution 46/51 of 1991, paragraph 15 of which states that the General Assembly

> "Considers that nothing in the present resolution could in any way prejudice the right to self-determination, freedom and independence, as derived from the Charter of the United Nations, of peoples forcibly deprived of that right referred to in the Declaration of Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, particularly peoples under colonial and racist regimes or other forms of alien domination, or the right of these peoples to struggle legitimately to this end and to seek and receive support in accordance with the principles of the Charter, the above-mentioned Declaration and the relevant General Assembly resolutions".

In this context, the Arab delegations would like to reiterate that what has been taking place in the occupied Arab territories, especially in recent weeks — the missile attacks, bombings and other military actions by land, air and sea by the occupying Israeli forces against the unarmed people of Palestine — is the embodiment of terrorism in all its aspects. In this context, the Arab delegations reiterate the right of the Arab peoples under the yoke of occupation to use all legitimate means to achieve their independence and self-determination, including armed struggle.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Before explaining my delegation's vote, I should like to take this opportunity to thank the representative of Australia for submitting this resolution to the members of the Sixth Committee. I congratulate her on the adoption of the draft resolution in the Committee on 22 November. I should like to express my deep regret that unforeseen circumstances prevented my being present on that occasion.

We endorse and support the statement made by the representative of Egypt with regard to the resolution on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

The delegation of the Sudan has closely followed the progress of the resolution on measures to eliminate international terrorism up to its adoption by the General Assembly just a few minutes ago. Not only has the Sudan supported all resolutions under this item in the past, but we also took part in bilateral and other contacts conducted to elaborate the draft of the present resolution and to overcome the difficulties encountered with regard to certain paragraphs.

My delegation is pleased that the resolution contains a paragraph in which the General Assembly expresses its appreciation and satisfaction that, during the past session, a number of States ratified or acceded to international conventions to eliminate international terrorism. We also take pride in the fact that the Sudan now features prominently on the list of those States that have ratified or acceded to such conventions, in compliance with and in adherence to Sudan's international commitments and in response to the appeals of the General Assembly and the Security Council, as reiterated in its recent statement of 6 December 2000.

The delegation of the Sudan would like to take this opportunity to call upon all States Members of the United Nations to respond favourably to General Assembly resolutions in this connection and to abide fully by the letter and spirit of such resolutions with the objective of eliminating terrorism and on the understanding that terrorism cannot be compartmentalized. As we have seen, the United Nations cannot tolerate any form of State terrorism, which is the major cause of civilian suffering and social chaos in many parts of the world. We certainly believe that the most dangerous form of State terrorism is the recognition of and the material and political support rendered to rebel movements that seek and endorse violence as a means of achieving their political ends.

We are confident that all members of the Assembly agree that no democracy, no civilized nation, would accept bloodshed as one of its political tools.

Mr. Rodríguez Parilla (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): The resolution that has just been adopted by the General Assembly is extremely important. It reaffirms the need for the General Assembly fully to exercise its functions in taking effective and strong action in the struggle against international terrorism, including the negotiation of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism containing a precise definition of the crime of terrorism, and the convening of a high-level conference on this issue.

The resolution strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms, considering it to be unjustifiable under any circumstances. It emphasizes the need to strengthen cooperation between States and international organizations and agencies in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism.

The resolution's call for all Member States to adopt further measures in accordance with the Charter and international law to prevent terrorism is particularly important. It reiterates the General Assembly's appeal to States to refrain from financing, encouraging, providing training for, or otherwise supporting, terrorist activities.

Our delegation would also like to reaffirm the validity and soundness of all resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this issue, especially resolution 46/51, which establishes the difference between international terrorism and the peoples' struggle for self-determination and against foreign occupation.

Cuba wishes to reiterate its strong condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever committed, including State terrorism or terrorism prompted or tolerated by States. At the same time, we will always oppose double standards and political manipulation of the issue through selective and discriminatory expressions of alleged condemnations.

The terrorist activities against Cuba continue to exist. Last 17 November, a plot to murder President Fidel Castro was dismantled in Panama after being revealed by Cuba. The Cuban American National Foundation arranged this plot through Posada Carriles, a well-known international terrorist who was the perpetrator of the 1976 bombing of a Cuban Airline jetliner flying over Barbados, which killed 73 people. Posada Carriles is responsible also for terrorist actions against 28 countries.

Posada Carriles is now detained in Panama, together with other terrorists from Miami and Central America. They were seized with twenty kilograms of C-4 and 50 packs of Semtex and the blueprints of the central hall of the University of Panama, as well as other evidence proving that they were going to bomb the site during a meeting between President Fidel Castro and thousands of students. They could also have committed acts against other events at the Ibero-American Summit and could seriously have jeopardized the lives of other Presidents.

On 18 November, Cuba initiated an extradition process for the terrorists. On 29 November, Cuba made a formal request to, and is still awaiting a decision from, the Panamanian authorities, to whom Cuba reiterates its respect and confidence.

Cuba has guaranteed that due process will be carried out for the terrorists, that they will neither be put to death nor convicted to terms longer than 20 years and has also proposed that an international Latin-American court of law try them in Havana.

Meanwhile, the Government of the United States exerts great pressure on Panama to prevent extradition. This does not surprise us because United States Administrations have for decades organized, financed and carried out numerous terrorist acts against Cuba by using mercenaries such as these, because their policy of aggression, subversion and economic war against Cuba constitutes a direct incentive to terrorism against our country and also because they deliberately and openly allow, on American territory, the existence and actions of the Cuban American National Foundation and other terrorist organizations which continually finance, organize, provide the means for, and carry out, terrorist acts against Cuba.

Posada Carriles is a terrorist who knows many secrets. He was trained by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). As an officer of the CIA, he worked to bring together the most aggressive anti-Cuban mercenary groups. After the bombing of the jetliner in Barbados, he walked out of a Venezuelan prison while he was being tried and showed up again, receiving salaries from the CIA and State Department and as one of the ringleaders of the Contragate conflict with regard to Nicaragua under Oliver North's command. After that he worked for two Central American Presidents and orchestrated dozens of terrorist acts against Cuba and attempted to murder President Fidel Castro at the Cartagena Ibero-American Summit.

In 1997, Posada Carriles organized a campaign consisting of planting bombs in Havana hotels. He travelled to the United States several times and granted interviews to the New York Times and to Miami's TeleNoticias channel from El Salvador.

The behaviour of the United States does not surprise us, because it is in Miami that the other perpetrator of the jetliner bombing, Orlando Bosch, freely resides and carries out his political activity. Nor are we surprised because it is also in the United States penal courts that anti-Cuban terrorists are historically absolved, as was the case in December 1999 in Puerto Rico with the organizers of an attempt to murder President Fidel Castro on the occasion of the Ibero-American Summit meeting in Margarita Island.

The people of Cuba do not want revenge, but rather a just process and severe sanctions. They wish to act in accordance with the letter and spirit of the resolution we have just adopted. Anything that departs from it will inexorably be an incentive to terrorism against Cuba and a threat to the security of all Member States.

Mr. Al-Qahtani (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): My country wishes first and foremost to support the statement made by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Arab States regarding measures to eliminate international terrorism.

The delegation of the State of Qatar has provided all information regarding efforts made during consultations in the Sixth Committee in order to introduce a draft acceptable to all Member States that could be in agreement with the General Assembly resolutions relating to measures to eliminate international terrorism, in particular the second preambular paragraph of resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991.

The resolution repeats the rights of countries to free themselves from hegemony and occupation and their right to self-determination, as well as the legitimate struggle of countries to be liberated from colonialist and racist regimes. This should, of course, apply to all legitimate resistance activities of the Palestinian people against Israel.

Mr. Kanu (Sierra Leone): Sierra Leone supported the resolution just adopted on international terrorism. Our support, however, does not mean that we agree entirely with all its paragraphs.

Mr. Kanu (Sierra Leone): Sierra Leone supported the resolution on international terrorism which has just been adopted. Our support, however, does not mean that we agree entirely with all the paragraphs contained in that resolution.

Sierra Leone's position is that any document or convention on international terrorism must contain a comprehensive and clear definition of what we are trying to eliminate. My country, Sierra Leone, has been a victim of both regional and international terrorism. Therefore, we support all measures to eliminate international terrorism in all its manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed.

It is the understanding of my delegation that the second preambular paragraph of the resolution we have just adopted includes resolution 46/51. Even though we have indicated that we do not agree with all of the paragraphs of the resolution we have adopted, it is our conviction that half a loaf is better than none. Therefore, bearing in mind our experiences on this matter, Sierra Leone decided to support the resolution without any equivocation.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote after the vote.

I shall now call on those representatives who wish speak in exercise of the right of reply.

May I remind members that statements in the exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second intervention and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Jacob (Israel): My delegation totally rejects the baseless allegations made by the representative of Egypt on behalf of some other States.

Egypt graciously hosted the Sharm el-Sheikh summit, at which an Israeli-Palestinian agreement was reached on ending the violence — an agreement which are working hard to implement. The summit recognized that neither side in this conflict has a monopoly on the status of victim and that both sides must act to bring about an end to the violence. Indeed, President Mubarak of Egypt spoke there of the need for both sides to return to the peace process in order to end the cycle of violence.

In this light, the words of the representative of Egypt, which seek to misrepresent Israel and terrorism, seems at the very best unreflective of Egypt's pronounced and greatly appreciated role as a supporter and facilitator of the Middle East peace process. Such a political manipulation of the resolutions of the United Nations serves only to undermine this Organization, which enjoys the respect of all parties in the region.

Certain States, while engaging in political accusations against Israel, continue to maintain that an act of terrorism — a car bomb in a crowded marketplace, for instance — is not to be regarded as terrorism if it is claimed to be in the cause of national liberation. Such a position, of course, ignores international law and repeated United Nations resolution, which clearly maintain that terrorism, whatever its form or motivation, is unjustified.

Terrorism is defined by what one does, not by what one does it for. Indeed, defending the bombing of innocents in the name of freedom fighting is simply incomprehensible. The perverse logic of these States would have us believe that those who target crowded buses or marketplaces are not terrorists, while those who seek to stop them are. In so doing, these States do a grave injustice to legitimate liberation movements.

I did not intend to engage in a polemic debate here. However, I was compelled to respond to the harsh statement made by the representative of Egypt.

Mr. Rosenstock (United States of America): The delegation of Cuba was out of order when it explained its vote, if that is the word for the diatribe of false accusations to which we have been subjected twice in the Assembly in explanation of vote. Such behaviour already occurred in the Sixth Committee, therefore under the rules that govern us it should not have been repeated. Repetition does not enhance its credibility. We will decline to dignify such out-of-order, irresponsible behaviour beyond saying we reject the accusations as false and regret that Cuba has seen fit twice to subject us all to such a diatribe.

Mr. Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have not heard a single valid argument. We have little time, but many truths must be told. I will refute what has been said with several examples.

First, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) organized and carried out hundreds of acts of aggression and terrorism against Cuba, including the invasion of Girón — Bay of Pigs — and organized dozens of assassination attempts against President Fidel Castro. This was stated by the United States Congress itself in related investigations and has been proved by dozens of declassified United States documents.

Without the encouragement and support of the United States policy of aggression against Cuba, there would be no terrorism against Cuba. If mercenaries had not been recruited, trained and employed for decades, they would not exist today.

Secondly, if the United States prosecuted terrorism against Cuba, this would not be happening. The United States is able to listen to conversations throughout the world and to photograph events anywhere on the planet. The CIA alone is investing more than $26 billion in this respect. The United States can trace funds to even the most secret banking accounts. How then can we believe the representative of the United States when he says that his country does not have the knowledge or the ability to do this?

Thirdly, those responsible for the in-flight explosion of a Cuban aircraft coming from Barbados were Orlando Bosch and Posada Carriles. What did the State Department say in a statement that was distributed in the Security Council? It said that the United States did not support or condone the illegal activities of Orlando Bosch. In fact, the opposite is true.

Here are the facts. Bosch is free in Miami today, carrying out political activities and writing for newspapers. In 1968 he was sentenced to 10 years in prison for a terrorist attack against a Polish vessel and for having threatened to destroy aircraft and ships belonging to Mexico, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The North American authorities granted him conditional freedom in 1972. In 1976, he masterminded the in-flight explosion of a Cuban airliner. In 1988, he returned to the United States, where he was arrested. The Department of Justice ordered his deportation, saying it had information indicating that the bombing of a Cuban aircraft had been a United Revolutionary Organization (CORU) operation led by Bosch. But that decision, supported by a Miami court, was later modified by a higher authority — that is to say, by President Bush. Bosch was given his freedom and allowed to live in the United States. According to *The New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*, this was the result of lobbying on the part of Senator Connie Mack, Congresswoman Ileana Ross and Jeb Bush, later a Republican leader in Florida, all of whom remain on the scene.

Fourthly, I can speak in greater detail about the other person, Posada Carriles. He was trained by the CIA in demolition and guerrilla warfare, was an informant of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Miami, was used by the CIA to bring together the most aggressive anti-Cuban terrorist organizations, was responsible for numerous terrorist acts, including a bombing at the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, was the organizer of the bombing campaign against Havana hotels and was involved in an assassination attempt against President Fidel Castro on Margarita Island.

After the sabotage of the Cuban plane, he resurfaced in Central America and was identified by the American pilot Hasenfus, who was shot down in Nicaragua as being his immediate boss in Contragate. According to the Tower Commission Report, President Reagan was informed of this by then National Security Adviser McFarlane. In subsequent Senate hearings, the CIA official Felix Rodriguez, one of the assassins of Che Guevara, stated that he had participated in organizing Posada's escape from the Venezuelan prison and in his inclusion in Oliver North's group.

According to United States Senate records, Posada also collected a salary in San Salvador as Support Director of the Nicaraguan Humanitarian Assistance Office — in other words, the State Department. A memorandum directed to Oliver North that was signed by Owen and Posada Carriles still exist. Posada Carriles was working for the White House in illegal activities and for the State Department in legal activities.

In 1996, Posada travelled freely to Miami. In June 1998, *The New York Times* published extensive information showing that the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) financed the bombing campaign against Havana hotels through the Cuban-American Chávez Abarca, a New Jersey resident, using Posada Carriles and Central American mercenaries.

In addition to abundant evidence, the Cuban-American National Foundation issued a statement indicating that it supported unreservedly incidents of internal rebellion that had occurred in recent weeks at the island's hotels.

Shortly thereafter, four men travelling by boat were detained by the United States Coast Guard upon leaving Puerto Rico. The group leader, Angel Alfonso Alemán, a New Jersey resident, stated that he was on a mission to kill President Fidel Castro. United States police officials noted that the vessel was registered in the name of a member of the Executive Board of the CANF, that one of the rifles found on board belonged to the President of that Foundation and that the vessel set sail from Coral Gables, Florida, from the private mooring of another Foundation member whose commercial partner is also the treasurer of the Mafia group.

The proceedings were also held in Union City, New Jersey. The owner of the vessel confirmed that the weapons were to be used to kill Fidel Castro, and he boasted about having visited the White House on four occasions: once with Reagan, once with Bush and twice with Clinton. He showed a photograph of him with Mr. Clinton, in which he appears with Senator Robert Torricelli. The photograph was taken a year ago at the Helms-Burton legislation signing ceremony.

These are the facts. What does the United States say in the Security Council? In response to the annoying assertions that my Government is hiding Posada Carriles, as far as we know, Posada Carriles is not in the United States. We believe that he is somewhere in Latin America.

In the Special Committee on Terrorism in 1999, it was said that the unfortunate reference — meaning to the Cuban delegation — is a matter of public domain and that the United States Government has repeatedly requested the Cuban Government to provide detailed information that could be referred to the authorities responsible for enforcing the law. It is not true. On 3 May 1997, a document was sent to President Clinton by former Senator Gary Hart that contained detailed and sensitive information on a number of terrorist acts against Cuba carried out from the United States between 1992 and 1997.

In June 1998, the United States Government sent a delegation to Cuba, led by a high-level FBI official, which received detailed information. In May 1998, President Clinton was sent a message with detailed information on the plans of the CANF to use Central American mercenaries to attack aircraft flying to Cuba. To date the United States has not taken any practical steps. The United States representative at the Special Committee said, referring to those detained in the attempt on Margarita Island, that those four individuals had been charged and the United States intended to follow the proceedings closely. That was not what happened. In December 1999, a federal court in Puerto Rico shamelessly absolved the terrorists. *The New York Times* published photographs of the celebration that followed announcement of the verdict at a nearby restaurant, which was attended by the accused and several jurors.

In conclusion, some of those detained in Panama are United States residents. Pedro Remón Rodríguez, who lives in Miami, killed an official of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United States. Guillermo Novo Sampol, a United States resident, fired a bazooka at the United Nations in 1964 and was involved in the murder of Orlando Letelier. Gaspar Jiménez Escobedo, a Miami resident, one of those closely involved with the CANF, participated in the murder of a Cuban official in Mexico, in an assassination attempt against the Ambassador of Cuba to the United Nations and in many attempts against the Cuban President.

More recently, the United States Congress, through its law on assisting victims of terrorism in effect ...

The President: I have to interrupt the speaker, but the 10-minute period is up.

Mr. Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to finish. I need 30 seconds.

The President: I ask the representative of Cuba to be kind enough to conclude his statement.

Mr. Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba): I was saying that the funds used for alleged compensation payment to families of perpetrators of terrorist acts against Cuba constitute direct encouragement of those operations. The next President of the United States — when we finally know who he is — will have the dilemma of maintaining the impunity or of implementing this resolution and pursuing and eliminating all terrorism against Cuba from his territory.

Mr. Gomaa (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have asked to speak in exercise of the right of reply to respond to the Israeli representative's accusation that Egypt and the Arab countries have submitted false claims on the events in the occupied Arab territories. However, we wish to confirm that the accusations we have spoken of have been documented and recorded and have been the subject of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, as well as those of other international organizations and organs.

The Israeli representative forced the peace process — in which Egypt cherishes its central role — onto the question we are considering: combating terrorism. This has nothing to do with the subject matter and removes the question of terrorism from its appropriate perspective.

Mr. Obeid (Syria) *(spoke in Arabic)*: My delegation asked for the floor to reply to the allegations made by the representative of the Israeli occupation a little while ago. Our delegation fully supports the statement made by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Arab Group and also the reply and the explanations made by Egypt just now.

We would like to add that the claims of the representative of the Israeli occupation in his reply — that he knows international law — are baseless. Israel's claims regarding peace are just lies and have been exposed as such during the recent bloody days on which hundreds of martyrs — including children, women, the elderly and unarmed young people — have been deliberately killed.

Is this the international law of which the Israeli representative speaks, and claims that he understands? I do not think so, because this is not international law. International law does not allow the occupation of the land of others by force, nor the perpetration of the most heinous crimes against people under occupation. International law does not allow the innumerable atrocities and massacres that have been perpetrated by Israel in the occupied Arab territories since 1967 — atrocities and massacres that are documented in United Nations reports, General Assembly resolutions and Security Council resolutions. These are not allegations. Rather, the reports of the Secretariat provide proof of the crimes that have been committed by Israel.

Israel is the country that must be in the *Guinness Book of World Records* in this regard. Twenty-five Security Council resolutions have mentioned that Israel is the occupying Power, and yet the representative of Israel is still in this room. He should not be here at the United Nations. International law and the Charter of the United Nations require that every country that is a Member of the United Nations be peace-loving. This condition is not respected by Israel and has not been applied to Israel, which, since its inception via a Security Council resolution, has been occupying by force the land and territories of others, namely, the territories of Lebanon, Syria and Palestine.

Were we to apply international law, then the highest penalties should be imposed on Israel to force it to respect international legitimacy and to implement relevant Security Council resolutions, especially resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). Among other things, Israel should immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories to the lines of 4 June 1967. In addition, the establishment of settlements and the arming of settlers to kill the Arabs who own the land, whose land has been occupied by force, is a war crime and a flagrant violation of international law and the Geneva Conventions.

The international community should act promptly to intervene to protect unarmed Palestinians who are being killed daily by planes, missiles and rockets and are being subjected to genocide. There are daily assassinations and sniper attacks, and all sorts of weapons are being used to kill people. Confronted by this, the international community should establish a criminal court to bring the Israeli war criminals to justice and should send international troops to protect the Palestinian people.

The staff of Mrs. Mary Robinson — the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights who was asked to investigate the crimes committed by Israel — have been subjected to aggression by Israeli settlers. There have been attempts to kill her and to prevent her from doing her job.

The international community knows full well that Israel is the one that lies and commits crimes and that the Arab people, who are subjected every day to genocide, are the ones who need protection and who need the international community to apply international law.

Mr. Diab (Lebanon) *(spoke in Arabic)*: I would not have asked for the floor were it not for the allegations made by the representative of Israel — allegations that, as usual, distort the facts. This is why the Lebanese delegation would like to express its support for the statement made by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Arab Group.

Lebanon also wants to confirm the explanation of vote it delivered in the Committee after voting on the draft resolution. In it Lebanon emphasized that it fully condemns all acts of terrorism that are part of organized violence. Such acts include killings, assassinations, the taking of hostages, bombings, the hijacking of planes and other acts against civilians.

The appeal made to the international community by this resolution to combat terrorism in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations does not conform with the policy of occupation and killing followed by Israel. This appeal supports the position of Lebanon, which calls for making a distinction between State terrorism practised by Israel against civilians and resistance to the forces of occupation, which is protected by international laws and conventions.

I would like to remind the representative of Israel, just as an example, that in April 1996 the Israeli occupation forces intentionally bombed a United Nations camp where more than 106 people were seeking protection, including children, the elderly and women. Israel killed these people on purpose. This has been documented and confirmed by a representative of the Secretary-General after an investigation he conducted at the time.

We would also like to remind the Israelis of the bombing of the infrastructure of Lebanon at the beginning of this year. This bombing coincided with threats from more than one Israeli official, such as David Levy, the Foreign Minister, who threatened to burn the Lebanese territories and who threatened the Government, and the Israeli Chief of Staff, Saul Mofaz, who threatened to attack civilians if the Lebanese resistance continued its work against the occupation forces. Israeli aggression and threats against Lebanon and its civilians and its aggression against Palestinians and intentional killings of children — now having exceeded 300 people — expose the true uncivilized character of the Israeli policy of occupation and of attacking civilians. This is the real terrorism.

This policy is regrettable, since Israel is a Member of the United Nations and thus should be committed to respecting the United Nations Charter in its laws and in its actions. However, Israel speaks about international law while it allows the killing of civilians and violates the norms of international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention, as well as all basic ethical and moral laws. It is true that, as the representative of Israel said, terrorism is defined by what one does and not by what one does it for.

Mr. Jacob (Israel): I deeply regret the tenor of the intervention made by the Syrian representative, which is inappropriate in this Assembly. Although we truly wish to achieve a just, comprehensive and durable peace with our neighbours to the north, we have no delusions regarding the true character of the Syrian Government.

I, like my Syrian colleague, could also use undiplomatic language. I could remind the members of the Assembly that Syria is a dictatorship; Syria is a police State; Syria is a military occupier of almost half of the territory of a neighbouring State; Syria is the exploiter of this neighbouring State's economy and resources; Syria is a cultivator and trafficker of narcotics; Syria is a State that sponsors terrorism; Syria harbours in its capital terrorist organizations and activity that actively and violently oppose the peace process in our region. I could say that Syria brutally murders entire neighbourhoods — tens of thousands of its own citizens — in order to silence political dissent. However, I choose not to do so.

Yet, any statement voiced by the delegation of Syria should be considered in the light of these facts, which, although known by all, are diplomatically left unmentioned. It would suffice to say, however, that any Syrian representative's interpretation of the meaning of terrorism is inherently a contradiction of the term. As a matter of fact, when a regime such as that in Syria denigrates any other State for not complying with its view, I would interpret that as a compliment. I would therefore like to thank the representative of Syria for his comments because, coming from him, this unrestrained attack reassures me that Israel is indeed a nation that respects peace, justice and human dignity.

With regard to the statement made by the representative of Lebanon, I am bewildered. In the last six months, a radical change has occurred on the Israel-Lebanon border. Israel has withdrawn from Lebanon, fulfilling its responsibilities under Security Council resolution 425 (1978). The Secretary-General confirmed this complete withdrawal in his report to the Security Council, and the Council endorsed this report and also adopted a resolution to this effect.

Why then does the Lebanese representative continue to express his anger and frustration over the occupation of his country and the violation of its sovereignty as if nothing has happened? Could it be that these Lebanese sentiments have very little to do with Israel and its actions? Israel has never harboured any aspirations towards Lebanese territory or resources and has always taken action with the sole purpose of maintaining security along its northern border and providing for its own self-defence. Perhaps these Lebanese feelings could be explained by the fact that there is another State neighbouring Lebanon that occupies its soil and violates its sovereignty.

Mr. Obeid (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): Our delegation abstained from the vote on the resolution just adopted. We abstained because we condemn terrorism in all its manifestations and forms and because this resolution does not contain a clear distinction between the kind of terrorism that we condemn as a crime and the right of people to resist foreign occupation in accordance with international law, international legitimacy and the United Nations Charter.

As for the crimes committed by Israel in the occupied Arab territories, they are examples of international terrorism. The lies of the representative of the Israeli occupation are totally baseless. There is a saying: lie, lie, lie — maybe it works.

Syria entered Lebanon by request of the Lebanese Government in order to protect Lebanese civilians from Israeli attacks and to apply the resolutions of the Taif Agreement regarding security in Lebanon. This is an internal matter between Syria and Lebanon, and there are brotherly treaties between them, implemented in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international legitimacy. This has nothing to do with the Israeli occupation of Arab territories and the massacres perpetrated by Israel against the Arab people under its occupation.

The representative of the Israeli occupation has told lies about Syria, accusations that are not documented or true. We fully reject them. It shows that they have no arguments to submit. They talk only to cover up their own daily crimes in the occupied territories. The United Nations resolutions prove their crimes; the Charter of the United Nations is clear; international law is clear. Israel is the one that occupies Arab territories, and the United Nations resolutions should be applied to force Israel to withdraw from these territories.

Mr. Diab (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): We truly regret the interventions of the Israeli representative, who attacks States. We were under the impression that we were discussing the question of terrorism, and we gave examples of Israeli terrorism against civilians.

We have cited examples of Israeli terrorism over the 22 years of its occupation of Lebanon's territory and its murder and maiming of Lebanese civilians and children with a variety of prohibited and unprohibited weapons. We had thought that this was the question under consideration, but when we gave our supporting arguments, the representative of Israel chose to discuss another issue, since he had no answer to our rightful accusations.

First, I would remind him that his country occupied Lebanon for 22 years, in contravention of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which Israel flouted all that time. Secondly, we would ask what the Israelis are doing in the Sheba'a farmlands, which they continue to occupy and where they have increased their military presence. Does this military escalation in an occupied territory demonstrate a desire for peace or for war? Finally, we would remind the representative of Israel that the relationship between Lebanon and Syria is that of brothers. There is a cooperation and coordination agreement between the two countries; it is not a relation based on occupation, as the representative of Israel has depicted it.

Here, we would inquire about the fate of the 19 Lebanese civilian hostages kidnapped by the Israeli forces from their homes and currently held as hostages in Israeli prisons, a fact acknowledged by the Israeli Supreme Court. Is this not terrorism?

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 164.

Agenda item 165

Review of the Statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/615)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/159).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 165?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 171

Observer status for the Inter-American Development Bank in the General Assembly

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/616)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/160).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 171?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 172

Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/617)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 172?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 184

Observer status for the Economic Community of Central African States in the General Assembly

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/55/648)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 55/161).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 184?

It was so decided.

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Sixth Committee before it.

Announcements

The President: Before we take up the items on the agenda for this morning, I would like to make an announcement concerning the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea.

Members will recall that the General Assembly, by its resolution 54/33 of 24 November 1999, decided to establish an open-ended informal consultative process, in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly of developments in ocean affairs by considering the Secretary-General's report on oceans and the law of the sea. It also decided that the meetings of this process would be coordinated by two co-chairpersons, who would be appointed by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States and taking into account the need for representation from developed and developing countries.

In this regard, the first meeting of the Consultative Process was held at United Nations Headquarters from 30 May to 2 June 2000. The meeting was co-chaired by the Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations, Ambassador Tuiloma Slade, and Mr. Alan

Simcock of the United Kingdom, who were appointed by my predecessor.

Members will further recall that the General Assembly, by its resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000, requests the Secretary-General to convene the second meeting of the Consultative Process, to be held in New York from 7 to 11 May 2001.

With regard to the co-chairpersonships of the second meeting of the Consultative Process next year, I have conducted extensive consultations, both through the chairs of regional groups and through a significant number of individual delegations, representing all regions. During these consultations wide support was expressed for the co-chairpersons of the first meeting of the Consultative Process. Both of them were highly praised for their excellence as mediators and consensus-builders.

It is therefore my great pleasure to announce my decision to re-appoint Ambassador Tuiloma Slade, Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations, and Mr. Alan Simcock of the United Kingdom as the two co-chairpersons of the second meeting of the Consultative Process. However, some Member States also expressed the view that there may be a need to consider rotating the co-chairpersonship of this process. Thus, I should like to urge interested Member States to consider the issue of rotation as early as possible and to submit distinct nominations, through the appropriate channels, in regard to the co-chairpersons of the third meeting of the Consultative Process.

As delegations will have noted from this morning's *Journal*, and while on the subject of appointments, I would also like to indicate that — in the Working Group, after the plenary meeting is adjourned — I will be making an announcement of a similar nature concerning the Vice-Chairpersons of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council. The meeting of the Working Group will take place in this Hall immediately following the adjournment of this meeting.

Postponement of the date of recess

The President: Members will recall that at its 73rd plenary meeting, on 28 November 2000, the General Assembly decided that the General Assembly would postpone the date of recess of the fifty-fifth session to Friday, 15 December 2000.

However, I have been informed by the Chairman of the Fifth Committee that the Committee will still not be able to conclude its work before 20 December 2000. The Assembly will therefore not be able to conclude its work by that date. I would like, therefore, to propose to the Assembly that it postpone the date of recess of the current session to Friday, 22 December 2000.

If there is no objection, may I take it that the Assembly agrees to this proposal?

It was so decided.

Programme of work

The President: I would now like to inform members about some changes and additions to the programme of work of the General Assembly.

On Thursday morning, 14 December 2000, the General Assembly will resume consideration of agenda item 20 and its sub-items (a), (b) and (c), relating to humanitarian assistance. This will be to take up draft resolutions that will be ready for consideration.

On the same day the Assembly will also take up the following agenda items: agenda item 54, "Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986"; agenda item 55, "Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security"; agenda item 56, "Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait"; agenda item 57, "Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations"; and agenda item 58, "Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development".

In addition, I would like to inform members that agenda item 17 (h), "Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences", and agenda items 20 (d) and 46, relating to Afghanistan — originally scheduled for Friday afternoon, 15 December 2000 — are postponed to Tuesday, 19 December 2000.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.